Hafa Adai!

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Ada steps down as Commerce secretary. PAGE 2

Rape suspect was once convicted on Rota for burglarizing house, building. PAGE 3

Doctors, police officers not exempt from 16-hour cuts

» Administration says budget law also does not exempt PSS, NMC

» But lawmakers differ with administration's position

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Critical service positions like doctors, nurses, police officers, firefighters and corrections officers, as well as employees at the Public School System and Northern Marianas College, may also receive 16-hour cuts per pay period effective Oct. 24 because the new budget law does not specifically exempt them from the cuts.

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Tinian nurses now directly hired because of new appropriations law

» Rota, Tinian lawmakers approve $6.256 budget for their respective districts

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), center, gestures as he addresses members of the Tinian Legislative Delegation during an emergency session at his office on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. In photo are, from left, Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Hofschneider, and Rep. Trenton Conner. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The new budget law allows for the "direct hiring" of nurses and ancillary staff at the Tinian Health Center, members of the Tinian Legislative Delegation said yesterday as they passed a resolution allocating the $6.256 million appropriated for the island under Public Law 17-21.

Rota lawmakers led by Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) also passed a similar resolution on Tuesday, allocating $6.256 million to Rota pursuant to the budget law.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider, chair of the Tinian delegation, said the 49 full-time employees budgeted under PL 17-21 includes 12 nurses and ancillary staff previously employed by the Saipan Employment Agency and Services and assigned at

See NURSES on Page 4

Sixth of 33 men rescued from Chilean mine

By MICHAEL WARREN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SAN JOSE MINE, Chile (AP)—To hugs, cheers and tears, rescuers using a missile-like escape capsule began pulling 33 men one by one to fresh air and freedom at last early Wednesday, 69 days after they were trapped in a collapsed mine a half-mile underground.

Six men were pulled out in the first six hours of the apparently problem-free operation in the Chile's Atacama desert—a drama that saw the world captivated by the miners' endurance and unity as of-

See SIXTH on Page 4

AP
In this photo released by the Chilean government, miner Juan Illanes is carried away on a stretcher after being rescued from the collapsed San Jose gold and copper mine where he was trapped with 32 other miners for over two months near Copiapo, Chile, early Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010.

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
With less than a month to go before the delegate election, have you decided on who to vote for?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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The Dangjin Middle School Brass Band showed Saipan their exceptional musical talent Tuesday night.

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Abandoned mines in Romania leach waters contaminated by heavy metals into rivers.

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First Book
Hilary Duff may be a recently married young woman of 23, but when it comes to books she's not quite ready to grow up.

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Local

Ada steps down as Commerce secretary

Michael J. Ada has stepped down from his post as Commerce Secretary effective Oct. 9 to continue his doctorate studies.

In his letter of resignation addressed to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Ada stated that his desire to pursue other personal goals.

He disclosed that he wishes to return to school to pursue his doctorate degree which he was engaged in prior to his move to the CNMI.

During his tenure, Ada served in a variety of capacities and began a number of new offices under his department.

Ada is credited for restoring the Small Business Development Center which was absent in the CNMI for 10 years. Ada also developed the Military Integration Management Committee (MIMC) office, which is tasked with facilitating the CNMI's planning efforts in relation to the impending military activity that will occur in the region. Ada also managed the 2010 Census project, which was the first Census effort in the CNMI to complete the project ahead of schedule and under budget. The 2010 Census employed over 300 CNMI residents both on a part-time and full-time basis. Ada is most noted for his efforts in relation to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

In his testimony at a recent CNMI Senate hearing regarding the budget, Ada disclosed that his department was the sole executive branch department to receive under $1 million to operate for the last fiscal year. Ada stated that he has been able to maintain operations by moving 20 percent of his department personnel costs from local funds to federal funds through a variety of grants that Commerce has written.

He also shared his frustration with the Legislature's inability to pass the budget and their inaction on his department's recommendation to increase fines instead of fees to the business community. This is a sentiment that has been shared the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

"It has been an absolute pleasure to serve the CNMI in my capacity. I have worked with some very talented and professional individuals during my tenure. I have grown both professionally and personally through my experiences in public service. I credit my effectiveness in my role to the leadership of the governor and lieutenant governor. Both these gentlemen are extremely smart, well versed in leadership, and have provided guidance to me, which has been the catalyst to many of the positive things that we have been able to accomplish" said Ada.

In Monday's cabinet meeting, Fitial announced his acceptance of Ada's resignation and announced that Deputy Secretary Sixto Igismoar has been designated to serve as acting secretary. Ada disclosed that he will recommend Igisomar to fill the position of Commerce secretary. Ada cited Igisomar's strong understanding of the many projects that the department is involved in. In a farewell speech to his department, Ada urged the Commerce staff to support Igisomar in his new role as acting chief. ***(PR)***

Palacios to replace Santos as committee chair

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) will replace Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) as chair of the House Natural Resources Committee effective Oct. 18, Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Palacios said yesterday.

Palacios earlier declined Tenorio's offer of chairmanship, but he said he made it clear that even though he accepted the position, he will remain a Republican.

He said he would vote on issues based on what he thinks is "for the good of the majority of the people of the CNMI."

"I would also like to point out that during my inaugural speech in January, I challenge all the 20 House members that whenever we enter this building, we should set aside our political differences," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at his office.

Palacios has been voting along with the majority since the start of the Fiscal Year 2011 budget process.

Santos, when asked for comment, said she has yet to receive a directive from the speaker about the change in chairmanship.

The speaker said Santos will be replaced because she has not been voting along with the majority members of the House.

Tenorio, in a phone interview yesterday, also said he wants changes in the seating arrangements of the House members during sessions so that majority members will seat on one side and the minority members on the other side.

The speaker said he would like Santos and Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) to move to the other side of the chamber, where minority members seat.

Conner said he does not have any problem with this.

Santos' seat may soon be occupied by Palacios, but Palacios said he would prefer that he sits beside Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) who is also voting along with the majority and who is seated on the nearest right end of the speaker but on the side of the minority.

Conner's seat, meanwhile, may be occupied by Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan).

The speaker said he would like the new seating arrangement take effect during Friday's session.

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Rape suspect was once convicted on Rota for burglarizing house, building

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Michael Anthony Jackson, a 32-year-old man who allegedly kidnapped and raped a 15-year-old girl at Saipan airport's football field, was convicted in 1998 over a burglary of an establishment and a house where musical equipment and other items were stolen on Rota.

According to court documents, on Jan. 15, 1998 Superior Court jurors rendered a guilty verdict to Jackson as to the charges of one count of burglary and one count of theft.

The jurors found Jackson not guilty of one count of burglary.

Then associate judge Edward Manibusan, who tried the two other offenses, found the defendant guilty of criminal mischief and theft.

During the sentencing on April 3, 1998, Manibusan sentenced Jackson to three years in prison, all suspended except for 60 days.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Jackson and other persons for burglarizing and stealing items from the house of Rosita A. Hocog and Taga Rock, a commercial building owned by Crispin A. Taitano on or between March 17 and 19 in Sinapalo, Rota.

Jackson

Court records also showed that Jackson had two convictions for driving while under the influence of alcohol.

On June 29, 2004, the defendant pleaded guilty to his second DUI charge. Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced him to 50 days in prison and placed him on one year of probation.

Wiseman issued a bench warrant for the arrest of Jackson for failing to appear at his review hearing in the traffic case on Jan. 10, 2006.

Police arrested the defendant on Saturday night over the alleged kidnapping and rape of the girl at Saipan airport's ballfield. A detective said the defendant after raping the victim, the defendant also forced her to smoke methamphetamine or "ice."

The court has issued a $100,000 cash bail for Jackson's temporary release.

Meanwhile, Gideon S. Kikku, one of the Chuukese community leaders in the CNMI, yesterday said their list showed no name of Michael Jackson.

But DPS spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr. said he verified from the records of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles that Jackson's citizenship is U.S. as he was born in Guam.

Blas said the driver's license indicated that Jackson's nationality is Chamorro/Chuukese.

A traffic citation issued to Jackson when he was arrested for DUI in 2004 listed his race as Chamorro.

Saipan Tribune learned from sources on Rota that Jackson is actually a junior as the name of his father, who is said to be currently staying in Guam, is also Michael Jackson.

Tinian beach site red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Leprosarium Beach II and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these location had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 10 locations on Tinian Island this week.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

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Delegate candidates trade barbs in first face-off

MONETH G. DEPOSA

The four delegate candidates during a forum Tuesday night at Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Venter. From left, Republican Party nominee Juan N. Babauta; Covenant Party'bet Joseph Camacho; incumbent Washington Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan; and Democratic Party candidate Jesus Borja.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Candidates in this year's congressional election exchanged barbs in their first face-off Wednesday night before over 70 retirees gathered at the at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center.

The Commonwealth Retirees Association organized the event with the objective of giving its members a chance to personally hear the opinions and plans of candidates.

Former governor and Republican Party nominee Juan N. Babauta, who was assigned as the forum's third speaker, made a strong remark when he countered the statements of incumbent Washington Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan involving the failure of past governors and officials to fulfill their obligations.

"As governor, contrary to Congressman Kilili's attack here, I fulfilled my obligation: paid employer contribution. I had also a good working relationship with both Houses of Congress…and a very vast experience," Babauta told the crowd in answering one of the seven questions assigned by CRA.

When asked to comment on the recent shutdown, Babauta said if he is a sitting delegate he will serve as intermediary between the Legislature and the administration to come up with an immediate solution.

"That was the most unfortunate situation [shutdown]… but he didn't do that," added Babauta.

Sablan, when his turn to respond to other questions, took the time to apologize to Babauta and former lieutenant governor Jesus Borja, who was also among the four contenders in the Nov. 3 polls.

Sablan admitted that he doesn't have a college degree, however, he believes that "it's what you put on the program and your job" that counts for a delegate to become effective.

Borja, for his part, believes that his qualifications, experience, and degree are proof of his being capable to do the job. He cited that 70 percent of the U.S. lawmakers have legal degrees and were proven effective in their jobs.

Covenant Party bet Joseph Camacho also pointed out the importance of education, experience, and credentials in fulfilling an important job for the people. He was also a former lawmaker and a practicing lawyer.

All candidates cited their support for the pension obligation bond now being proposed for the CNMI in order to pay its over $231 million obligation to the Retirement Fund. All four, meanwhile, disagreed on the idea of bringing the Fund into a receivership, saying this would worsen the Fund's situation.

However, candidates differed in their opinion if stimulus money can be tapped by the government to pay the Fund.

DOCTORS

From Page 1

But lawmakers, when asked for comment yesterday, said it will be better if critical service employees and those from NMC and PSS are exempt from the cuts.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said doctors and police and fire officers are "very critical and should be exempt."

"PSS and NMC are not (critical) but are important for our kids to be at school rather than wandering around in the streets or be left at home by themselves," he said.

He said any disruption of classes will only extend the school calendar if PSS and NMC are not exempted from the cuts.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) echoed Dela Cruz's concerns, adding that lives and livelihood will be jeopardized if there are disruptions in the services of critical service employees and agencies.

"The police and physicians are two distinct job categories whose sole purpose is to protect the health and welfare of our community. PSS and NMC teachers are equally important as they are charged with educating our people. All four job categories fall into the same but different arrangement," she said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Fitial administration is currently planning out the formal implementation of the work hour cuts "in accordance with the provisions of the budget law."

The Fiscal Year 2011 budget or Public Law 17-21 does not specifically state that critical service positions are exempt from the 16 hours of cut, or from 80 to 64 per pay period.

"The administration is in the process of reviewing its options on what approach will be followed in terms of implementing the provisions of the budget law for critical positions such as police, fire, doctors, nurses, corrections officers. Any such decision will have to be made in accordance with the appropriations outlined in the budget law," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Demapan said as for PSS and NMC, "the new budget law does not specify any exemptions for them."

"Their expenditure authorities need to come up with a spending plan to ensure that their personnel and operation expenditures are kept within their appropriated budgets," he added.

He said including NMC and PSS in the work cuts will not affect the Maintenance-of-Effort agreement between the governor and the U.S. Department of Education.

"The funds allotted to PSS and NMC are pursuant to the requirements of the MOE. Now PSS and NMC must formulate a spending plan to ensure that their personnel and operations costs will be within the limits of the amount of funding resources appropriated to them respectively. It will not affect the MOE as the funding level will remain as stated in the budget law," he said.

Demapan said in general, the Fitial administration, through the Office of Management and Budget, will be requesting all departments and activities to submit their spending plan in the coming days.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said PSS, NMC, and critical service positions such as doctors and police officers need to be exempted because of the nature of their job.

He also said that it should be up to the individual agencies or departments whether they will subject their employees to the work hour cuts because the $132 million budget law provides other ways to cut spending, including furloughs and reduction in expenditures and not just work hour cuts and salary cuts.

At least for the Executive Branch, the 16-hour cuts will take effect on Oct. 24. Employees will also be subjected to 13 unpaid holidays in FY 2011.

The 16-hour cuts will be implemented through a combination of payday Friday closure and one-hour cut from Monday to Thursday.

The non-payday Friday will have a complete eight-hour work, or from 7:30am to 4:30pm, with a one-hour lunch break.

SIXTH

From Page 1

ficials meticulously prepared their rescue.

First out was Florencio Avalos, who wore sunglasses to protect him from the glare of bright lights. He smiled broadly as he emerged and hugged his sobbing 7-year-old son, Bairon, and wife, then got a bearhug from Chilean President Sebastian Pinera shortly after midnight local time.

A second miner, Mario Sepulveda Espina, was pulled to the surface about an hour later—his shouts heard even before the capsule surfaced. After hugging his wife, Elvira, he jubilantly handed souvenir rocks from his underground prison nearly 2,300 feet (700 meters) below to laughing rescuers.

Then he jumped up and down as if to prove his strength before the medical team took him to a triage unit.

"I think I had extraordinary luck. ... I was with God and with the devil—and God took me," Sepulveda said later in a special interview room set up by the government.

He praised the rescue operation, saying: "It's incredible that they saved us from 700 meters below."

A third Chilean miner, Juan Illanes, was rescued after another hour. The lone Bolivian, Carlos Mamani, was pulled out fourth, the youngest miner, 19-year-old Jimmy Sanchez, was fifth, and Osman Isidro Araya came out sixth.

Mamani was greeted by his wife, Veronica, with a hug and kiss that knocked off her white hardhat as Chile's president and first lady held small Bolivian flags. Mamani also gestured with both forefingers at his T-shirt, which said "Thank You Lord" above a Chilean flag. He shouted "Gracias, Chile!" before a round of backslapping with rescuers.

Through the first five rescues, the operation brought up a miner roughly every hour—holding to a schedule announced earlier to get all out in about 36 hours. Then, rescuers paused to lubricate the spring-loaded wheels that give the capsule a smooth ride through the hard-rock shaft before they brought up the sixth miner.

When the last man surfaces, it promises to end a national crisis that began when 700,000 tons of rock collapsed Aug. 5, sealing the men in the lower reaches of the mine.

After the first capsule came out of the manhole-sized opening, Avalos emerged as bystanders cheered, clapped and broke into a chant of "Chi! Chi! Chi! Le! Le! Le!"—the country's name.

Avalos gave a thumbs-up as he was led to an ambulance and medical tests following his more than two months deep in the gold and copper mine—the longest anyone has ever been trapped underground and survived.

Avalos, the 31-year-old second-in-command of the miners, was chosen to be first because he was in the best condition.

Pinera later explained they had not planned for Avalos' family to join rescuers at the opening of the shaft, but that little Bairon insisted on being there.

"I told Florencio that few times have I ever seen a son show so much love for his father," the president said.

"This won't be over until all 33 are out," he added.

"Hopefully this example of the miners will stay forever with us because these miners have demonstrated ... that when Chile unifies, and we always do it in the face of adversity, we are capable of great things," Pinera said.

After he emerged, Sepulveda criticized the mine's management, saying "in terms of labor, there has to be change."

Pinera promised it would.

"This mine has had a long history of accidents and that's why this mine will not reopen while it doesn't assure and guarantee the integrity, safety and life of who work in it are clearly protected. And the same will occur with many other mines in our country," said Pinera, who ordered a review of safety regulations after the collapse.

Minutes earlier, rescue expert Manuel Gonzalez of the state copper company Codelco grinned and made the sign of the cross as he was lowered to the trapped men—apparently without incident. He was followed by Roberto Rios, a paramedic with the Chilean navy's special forces.

The last miner out has been decided: Shift foreman Luis Urzua, whose leadership was credited for helping the men endure 17 days with no outside contact after the collapse. The men made 48 hours' worth of rations last before rescuers reached them with a narrow borehole to send down more food.

Janette Marin, sister-in-law of miner Dario Segovia, said the order of rescue didn't matter.

"This won't be a success unless they all get out," she said, echoing the solidarity that the miners and people across Chile have expressed.

The paramedics can change the order of rescue based on a brief medical check once they're in the mine. First out will be those best able to handle any difficulties and tell their comrades what to expect.

NURSES

From Page 1

the Tinian Health Center.

For several pay periods last year and this year, SEAS had not been paying its Tinian nurses on time.

"With the direct hiring of these nurses, we hope that there won't be any disruption in services to the people," said Hofschneider.

The Tinian delegation, which also includes Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), and Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), adopted during yesterday's emergency session Resolution 17-5.

Of the $6.256 million appropriated for Tinian, over $5.607 million is for personnel and $648,991 is for operations.

It provides $1.263 million to Tinian Health Center's personnel and $107,566 for its operations.

Rota, however, continues to budget for "professional services" for some of its Rota Health Center personnel from SEAS.

Under Rota's $6.256 million appropriation, over $5.677 million is for personnel expenses and $578,487 for operations.

Of this amount, $340,000 is for payment of "professional services" for nurses, technicians and other medical professional as needed, including one mental health counselor for $33,000.

Rota nurses employed by SEAS have also been experiencing delayed payments.

‘Economic challenges shouldn’t shortchange education’

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Although Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and State Technical Assistance Dr. Carl E. Harris admitted yesterday that the U.S. Department of Education has no specific contingency plans for unexpected school shutdowns, the high-ranking education exec emphasized that education should not in any way be sacrificed.

This was his reaction to the 10-day government shutdown implemented recently in the Commonwealth as a result of not having a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2010.

PSS, fortunately, was exempted from the order after classifying the agency as among the essential services.

Harris

“I am not sure in the federal level if there’s contingency plan for insular areas. But the economy is a real issue in every state and insular areas. I just hope that governments continue to not place education anything less than priority,” said Harris during yesterday’s press conference at Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

He said today’s economic challenges “should not in any way shortchange the education of every child.”

In the first two days of his visit to the island’s schools, Harris said he was impressed on the works being done by the CNMI for its educational system.

Harris refused to give his personal “rate” for PSS when asked; however, he said the system is heading on the right direction.

He admitted that during yesterday’s meeting with school principals and programs managers, he heard the real issues in PSS—including challenges and opportunities.

Harris admitted that although he has yet to conduct a deep analysis of the students’ performance, just by looking at the PSS data in accordance with its benchmarks and standards, the officials described the records as “inspiring.”

“Based on their own set benchmarks, they’re moving in the right direction. The other important thing here is: nobody seems satisfied on where they are…even the best schools want to become even better,” he added.

Besides school principals and program managers, Harris also interacted with high school students in a forum held at Saipan Southern High School yesterday noon.

Zoning denies potential business at Marpi

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board failed to grant the approval for a conditional use permit application involving a potential business at Marpi.

The application was denied following two voting deadlocks during the joint board meeting and public hearing last Oct. 12.

In an interview yesterday, zoning administrator Douglas Wyatt told *Saipan Tribune* that the board failed to grant the approval for Full House Inc.’s conditional use permit application to put up Kee Tourist Convenience Cool Spot.

The applicant planned to use a stationary bus for its proposed eating spot located on the right hand side of Chalan Pale Arnold facing the old bunker at the Marpi area.

Full House representative Ta Bun Kuy addressed the board during Tuesday’s meeting, saying that his business intends to provide a place where both locals and tourists in the area can have refreshments and access a clean restroom.

Wyatt said there were some 20 comments and letters received by the zoning office by Tuesday regarding the conditional use permit application of Full House, some of whom attended the public hearing to express their reservations regarding the approval of the application.

Rexford Kosack, a lawyer who has been on Saipan for 29 years with three generations of his family, said the application should be rejected.

Kosack urged the board to draw the line where commerce begins and ends on the island he said is “worth protecting.”

“If you approve this, you will start a precedent. When the next development comes along, you won’t be able to say no,” he said.

With the approval of the application, Kosack said the Marpi area which is home to lush greens and tranquil landscape will become an extension of Middle Road.

Brad Ruszala, an active athlete in the community, also expressed disapproval on the application.

Ruszala said that Marpi is one of the island’s jewels that must remain unspoiled by development. “We must not sacrifice our greatest assets,” he added.

Frank Camacho, on the other hand, said the application should be approved since the northern part of the island is always behind in terms of development.

“I don’t see any reason why we have to deny Mr. Ta Bun Kuy,” he told the board.

Wyatt said three board members votes for while the other three voted against the application. Those in favor were new board member Edward Arriola Jr., Diego Blanco, and Isidoro Cabrera. Chair Herminia Fusco, vice-chair Henry Hofschneider, and Joe Limes.

Member Elizabeth Rechebei is off-island during the public hearing.

After the first deadlock, Wyatt said the board moved to reconsider and held another voting but still ended up in a deadlock. He said the second deadlock resulted in the failure to grant the approval.

Judge re-sets to January jury trial of 3 defendants in Kagman rape case

The Superior Court yesterday re-set for next year the jury trial of three of four persons being charged over the kidnapping and rape of a 16-year-old student in Kagman.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman set for Jan. 10, 2011 the new date of jury trial of defendants Alfred P. Hocog, Joseph C. Camacho Jr., and Ivan Jones Castro.

The original jury trial was set for Nov. 8, 2010. Last week one defendant, Angel Jess Santos, signed a plea agreement with the government and pleaded guilty.

Santos’ sentencing will be held one week after the trial, if there is any, of the co-defendants Hocog, Camacho, and Castro.

As part of the plea agreement, Santos would testify for the government in the trial of co-defendants.

At yesterday’s hearing for motion for discovery, Wiseman set the new trial date to give the parties more time for discovery.

Assistant Attorney General Brian Gallagher represented the government in the case.

Discovery refers to part of the pre-trial litigation process during which each party requests relevant information and documents from the other party to “discover” pertinent facts.

Police first arrested Santos on June 18. He has reportedly confessed to being one of three persons who kidnapped the victim and that he only served as a lookout when one of them raped the student at Tank Beach on June 16.

Police said it was Hocog who first beat up the victim and raped her.

Police said the victim was walking toward Kagman High School when one suspect blocked her path. One grabbed her and beat her up repeatedly.

When the victim regained consciousness, she was outside an abandoned building several meters away where she was attacked. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Recidivist gets five years for store robbery, theft

Recidivist Calvin A. Fitial has been sentenced to five years in prison in connection with the robbery of a store incident San Vicente and two other cases.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered the 26-year-old Fitial to serve the five-year jail term without the possibility of parole.

Fitial was given credit for the 41 days he already served in jail. His release date from the Department of Corrections is Aug. 28, 2015.

Wiseman said after serving the jail sentence, the defendant will be placed on five years of probation.

The judge required Fitial to perform 100 hours of community work service and pay a $100 fine, $100 court assessment fee, plus a probation fee.

Fitial was also ordered to pay restitution to the victims jointly with any co-defendants.

The defendant and counsel, assistant public defender Adam Miles, signed a plea agreement with the government to resolve three criminal cases. Assistant Attorney General Brian Gallagher represented the government.

Fitial pleaded guilty to robbery and theft in separate cases. As part of the agreement, the remaining charges in three cases were dismissed.

Prior to accepting the plea agreement on Tuesday, Wiseman asked the prosecution and the defense to explain why the maximum sentence should not be imposed for this "recidivist defendant."

The parties represented that Fitial has provided the authorities with substantial information and cooperation which led to the investigation and or prosecution of at least three other unrelated criminal cases.

In addition, Fitial waived his preliminary hearings in these cases and proceeded to judgment even though the criminal acts in the most recent case occurred only about Aug. 28, 2010.

The other case is a relatively new case too.

In view of the foregoing, Wiseman said he finds that Fitial's cooperation with the authorities helped them pursue other criminals along with his willingness to expeditiously proceed to judgment in these matters, thereby allowing the government to conserve its limited resources, present mitigating factors that warrant the court's acceptance of the plea agreement that will incapacitate the defendant for five years.

According to the plea agreement, Fitial robbed Ha Liang Chen of money, hard liquor, and cigarettes last Aug. 28.

Police said Fitial and Aliston Santos robbed Green Island Market by pointing a knife at the owner, Mr. Liang, and demanding money.

In October 2009, Wiseman imposed a prison term of one year and six months on Fitial for breaking into a patient's room at the Commonwealth Health Center and stole several items. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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PSS: No errors in awarding third honor to former Hopwood student

Hopwood Junior High School did not err when it made Jonavelle Cuerdo the third honor instead of valedictorian of its 2010 graduating class.

In a six-page decision released Tuesday by hearing officer Vince Dela Cruz, the Public School System ruled in favor of Hopwood in relation to a complaint filed by Cuerdo's mother, Zenaida.

In the complaint, Mrs. Cuerdo accused school administrators of committing errors and violating the school's handbook and PSS regulations when it ranked her daughter third highest in the class the previous school year, instead of first.

In affirming the younger Cuerdo's class ranking, Dela Cruz determined that Hopwood did not violate PSS regulations and policies in calculating her records.

"Based on the evidence placed in the record, PSS will not be amending the education of Jonavelle Cuerdo with respect to class ranking. The grade point average of the student was not affected by the calculations made by the school. The class ranking is a substantive matter that falls squarely within the boundaries of applicable BOE policy," he said.

Mrs. Cuerdo, in an interview yesterday, said she already appealed the PSS decision to the Board of Education last Thursday and she is waiting for a response.

However, she said that with or without BOE's response she would elevate her daughter's case to the U.S. Department of Education's Family Policy Compliance Office.

Mrs. Cuerdo believes that if Hopwood did not follow its handbook, education records, and the acquisition of education records violated FERPA or the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

But according to PSS, although FERPA allows for parents to seek changes to their child's records that they feel are inaccurate, this right is not unlimited. The school, it said, is not required by FERPA to afford the parent the right to seek to change substantive decisions made by school officials, such as grades or other evaluations.

"Accordingly, the right to seek amendment of education records cannot be used to challenge a grade or evaluation unless it has been inaccurately recorded," said Dela Cruz.

Mrs. Cuerdo is questioning additional criteria used by Hopwood to calculate class ranking for the purpose of awarding special awards. But the hearing officer ruled that the decision to add criteria is covered by BOE regulations and that Hopwood administrator Jonas Barcinas discussed this at numerous meetings with PTA.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A Sablan, in a letter to Mrs. Cuerdo, explained that a student's cumulative grade point average was one of the four criteria used to rank students for the purposes of awards.

Additionally, the selection of class ranking was based on the score each student received on a written exit examination, their score in an essay and speech competition, as well as a numerical score based upon their participation in school activities. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

All three justices recuse from handling Juan Pan's appeal

» Guam's 2 justices, 1 judge appointed in the case

All three justices in the CNMI Supreme Court have recused from the appeal of businessman Juan Pan T. Guerrero, who was convicted for driving while under the influence of alcohol and two other traffic offenses.

Saipan Tribune learned that Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and associate justices Alexandro Castro and John A. Manglona recused from Guerrero's case.

Demapan, however, appointed two justices and one judge—all from Guam—to handle the matter.

As of yesterday afternoon, the appointed appellate panel—Guam Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, Justice Philip Carbullido, and Judge Michael J. Bordallo—had yet to rule on Guerrero's emergency motion to stay the Superior Court's judgment and order for him to five days in jail over his conviction.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona, who convicted Guerrero, ordered the defendant to start serving the jail term at the Department of Corrections tomorrow, Friday.

Attorney Steven Pixley, who assumed as counsel for Guerrero in the appeal, asserted, among other things, that the appeal raised legitimate and substantial questions regarding the sufficiency of the evidence presented at trial to support a finding that Guerrero was guilty of DUI and speeding. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Worldwide Marriage Encounter welcomes 20 new couples

Twenty couples graduated from the CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter during the Fall Weekend held from Oct. 8 to 10.

The presenting team consisted of Vince and Hilma Castro, Father Isaace Ayuyu, Tom and Erica Thornburgh, and Andy and Neivis De Laveaga from Hawaii.

Bishop Tomas A. Camacho warmly welcomed the new couples at the start of the Encounter.

The 20 new couples are invited to take part in a reunion for all "Encountered" couples set for today, Oct. 14, 6pm at the Seaside Hall of Saipan Grand Hotel.

"For newly encountered couples, this is your final presentation of the weekend. For 'Encountered' couples, come meet the new couples! Refreshments are most welcome—bring any to share," a media release from Worldwide Marriage Encounter read.

For more information, contact Russ and Kanae Quinn at 287-0318 or 285-1168. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Jury selections on Oct. 18 cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors for panels "US" that the jury selections scheduled for Oct. 18, 2010 at 8:30am in Courtroom 220A are hereby cancelled until further notice. For further information, please contact jury coordinator Dora SN. Decena or deputy clerk Ester T. Wabol, at telephone 236-9765. ***(PR)***

Autism Society of the CNMI meeting on Oct. 16

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Saturday, Oct, 16, at 10am at the NMPASI Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. For additional information, call 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

CEC sets series of public education meetings

The Commonwealth Election Commission and Northern Marianas College has organized two public education meetings at the Northern Marianas College, classroom D-1.

The first session is set today, Oct. 14, from 5pm to 6:30pm, while the second session is set next Thursday, Oct. 21, from 5pm to 6:30pm

The meetings will educate voters on the House Legislative Initiatives 16-13, 16-18, and 17-1. HLI 16-13 and HLI 17-1 are concerned with the Retirement Fund and HLI 16-18 is authorizes the Department of Public Land to use its revenue to pay and satisfy land compensation claims. ***(PR)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 14, 1999

Garapan Street Market unveiled

With the slowdown in the island's tourism economy, Garapan, the island's main commercial district, has seen a decline in business activity. But beginning Dec. 2 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., the "little Ginza" will have a new face with the establishment of a Garapan Street Market. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan commended efforts of various government agencies and the private sector to help revive the ailing tourism industry. Rhoda Smith, chair of the committee, said the street market will be held every Thursday of the week to allow the farmers, fishermen and entrepreneurs to sell their products to tourists and residents. Sale of alcohol is prohibited.

PDI to provide bus service to people with disabilities

As part of its commitment to help the community, the Pacific Development Inc. will assist the Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council in serving people with disabilities by improving their access to transportation. PDI has agreed to handle the operations of the two vans to be purchased by the Council early next year for the use by people with disabilities on the island. Thomas J. Camacho, executive director of the Council, said the federal community land grant has agreed in principle to provide $100,000 for the purchase of the vans. However, he said, the Council has yet to determine who would shoulder the maintenance cost since this will not be covered by the federal funding.

Oct. 14, 2002

DOLI-Tinian forms task force to check 'local preference' compliance

The Department of Labor and Immigration-Tinian has formed the Local Workforce Compliance Task Force following findings that only 13 percent of the private sector labor force are residents, which is a violation of the 20 percent local preference compliance requirement. DOLI-Tinian resident director Janet King said the taskforce "will actively seek resident workers to work in the private sector, and the businesses will be forced to comply with the 20 percent requirement." "All businesses on Tinian will be examined and determined whether compliance with the law is in place," King said in a statement. Under the Non-Resident Workers Act, no alien workers will be accepted for the following job classifications: taxi cab driver, secretary, bookkeeper, accounting clerk, messenger, receptionist, surface tour boat operator, bus driver and telephone switchboard operator.

ARFF gets $225K grant from FEMA

The Commonwealth got its share of the pie as the Federal Emergency Management Agency disclosed it has awarded more than $170 million in grants to some 2,756 fire departments nationwide. According to the FEMA, the CNMI's Saipan International Airport is recipient of a $225,000-grant in the form of firefighting vehicle. The Commonwealth Port Authority's Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting team has intensified its response capabilities after the September 11 terrorist attacks, completing training courses on emergency response to bioterrorist attacks, among others.

Oct. 14, 2003

Bill seeks to penalize govt for late payment of rebates, refunds, etc.

In a move seen to promote fairness, House lawmakers have introduced a bill that would require the CNMI government to pay interest and penalty to taxpayers and businesses if it is late in issuing tax refunds/rebates and outstanding billings, among others. House Bill 13-329, dubbed the Government Late Payment Interest and Penalty Act of 2003, wants to impose on the government a 5-percent interest rate for every billing, tax refund/rebate that is not compensated within 30 days and an additional 2 percent for every month of delay thereafter. The legislation, offered by Rep. Pete P. Castro, also proposes a one-time penalty of $200 for late compensation of billings, tax refunds/rebates, etc. "The government shall be held financially liable and responsible to compensate locally registered and licensed business establishments, contractors, taxpayers, etc. for late payment of billing, tax refund, rebate, etc.," states H.B. 13-329.

Lawmaker to push for bill vs Columbus Day holiday

While most of the Commonwealth observed a nonworking holiday to commemorate navigator Christopher Columbus' landing in the Americas, a lawmaker expressed intent yesterday to revive legislation that would remove Columbus Day as an official Commonwealth holiday. Sen. Pete P. Reyes, who has assumed the Senate presidency, is proposing to do away with Columbus Day to replace it with the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day every January. Senate Bill 13-117, which Reyes introduced last year, is pending in the Judicial, Government and Law Committee chaired by Sen. Thomas P. Villagomez.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Inspiration below ground and above

For the 33 miners who have been trapped half a mile below ground in Chile for more than two months, there is finally light at the end of the tunnel. When drill operator Jeff Hart punched through to the chamber last week, the miners cheered below and their relatives wept with joy, hugging Hart and posing for pictures with him. The Denver resident had been in Afghanistan drilling water wells for the U.S. Army when he was called to the mine in the Atacama desert, and his efforts there are only one example of the extraordinary international effort that, combined with local expertise, has made the 33 miners the longest surviving victims of a mine cave-in. The Chilean authorities have said that they could be rescued as soon as Tuesday night.

The international effort was matched by the inspiring example of those trapped below. The mine collapsed on Aug. 5, and 17 days passed before contact was made through a probe and the world learned of the miners' determination and discipline. They had stretched a two-day supply of food by living on two spoonfuls of tuna, a sip of milk, a bits of crackers and a nibble of peaches—every other day. And they had maintained order by continuing to follow the directions of the senior miner in the company.

Contact with the world above brought hundreds of government officials, Red Cross workers and volunteers (who prepare 500 meals a day for family members) to the site. It also brought cutting-edge technology to solve the dual challenges of keeping the miners alive and devising a rescue. Twenty private mining companies from around the world—usually rivals—coordinated efforts to penetrate the rock, lending equipment and personnel; the state-run mining company fashioned a telephone system through a second probe hole. The miners have received food, water, medicine, dominoes, MP3 players and videos to ward off depression, and they have traded letters with family members. One man proposed to his girlfriend; another promised his wife the honeymoon they never had. The U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration sent a team to Chile to share expertise about the psychological and physical toll of living in cramped quarters, and when the miners exercise—to be rescued, they must fit into a capsule called the Phoenix, whose diameter is less than two feet—they wear gear that is standard for astronauts and which monitors their heart, lung and other functions. When they are finally brought out into the light they will wear special sunglasses provided by Oakley, based in California.

On Monday, the capsule, whose components were designed by 20 NASA engineers, completed a successful trial run. And if it rises later this week, as expected, carrying the first miner, the greatest joy will be in Chile, but the job well done will belong to many.

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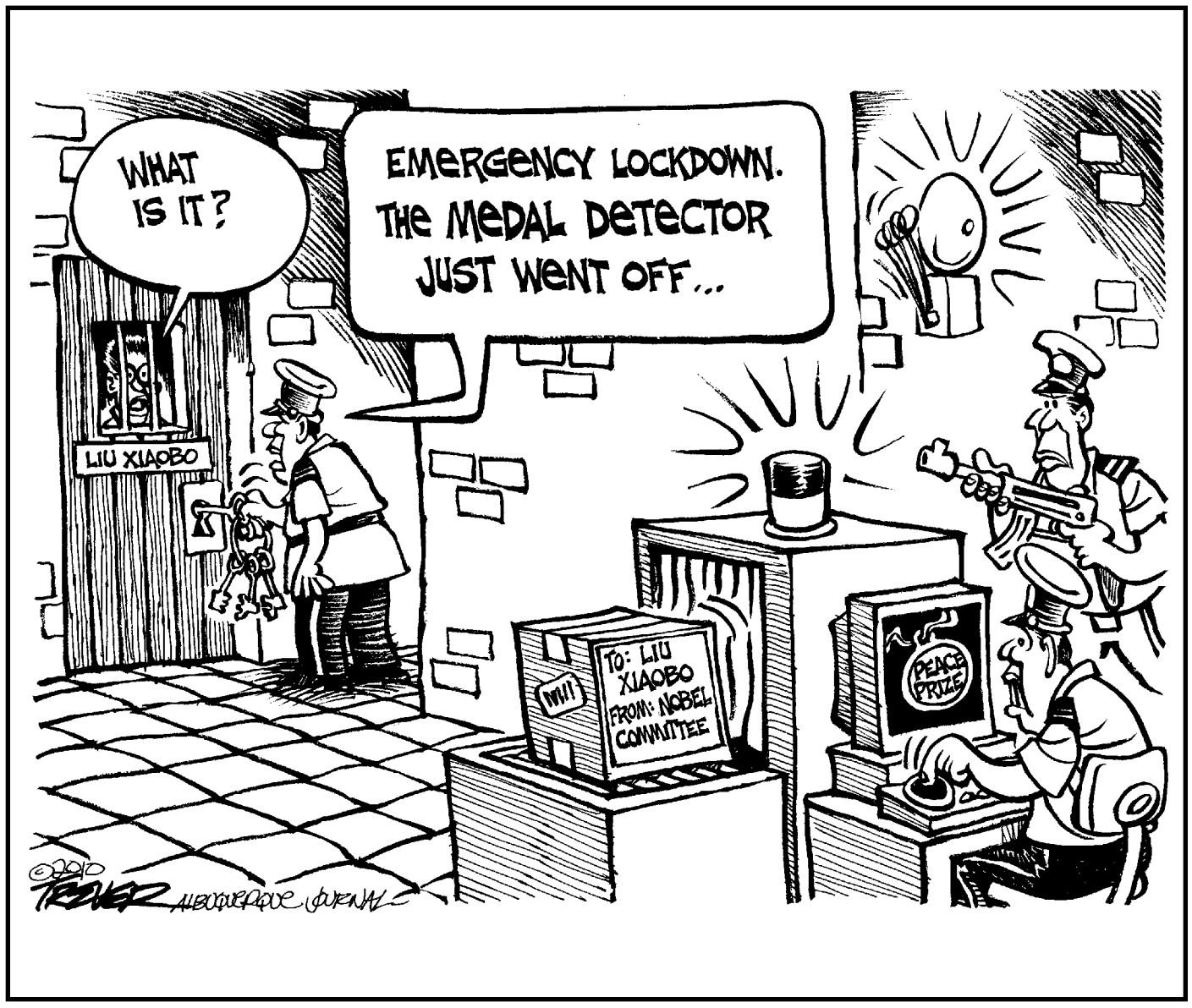

Nobel Committee got the Peace Prize right

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer*, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

The Chinese government has denounced the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the imprisoned dissident writer Liu Xiaobo as "blasphemy."

Liu unnerved China's ruling elite in 2008 by drafting a document called Charter 08, which calls on the Communist Party to relinquish its exclusive hold on power and permit democratic reforms. Ten thousand Chinese have signed this manifesto. (I interviewed Wan Yanhai, one of the original signers, in June in Philadelphia, after he was forced to flee his country. More on this later).

Beijing officials argued perversely that the award violated the spirit of the prize; they tried to pressure the Norwegian Nobel Committee and warned that China's relations with Norway would suffer.

Sorry, the Norwegian Nobel Committee got it exactly right this year. And bullying little Norway reflects badly on an economic superpower that aspires to become a global leader. The Chinese government should be thinking about the meaning of the committee's decision rather than giving itself a black eye.

The award reflects widespread concerns about what China's rise will mean to the global community. As Nobel Committee chairman Thorbjoern Jagland noted, a country that has risen to great power status has to grasp that its actions are open to criticism—a lesson America has long since learned. "We should have the right to criticize and ask what kind of China do we want to have," Jagland said.

The choice of Liu Xiaobo—a longtime fighter for peaceful change and freedom of expression—symbolizes the hope that China will evolve into a stable democratic power that doesn't threaten its neighbors or the world.

China's leaders have a visceral fear that the freedoms envisioned in Charter 08 would lead to "instability" and a loss of party control. Yet—as I heard on a recent trip to China, organized by the International Reporting Project—top officials also recognize they need to give more voice to, and get more input from, the grass roots.

In a society beset by widespread labor unrest and massive corruption, especially at the provincial and local levels, leaders in Beijing don't know what's going on at the bottom. National laws and regulations are ignored by local officials far from the capital. That's how diseases such as SARS and HIV-AIDS spread.

Senior Chinese leaders want to hear from nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and from bloggers in order to get information that local bureaucrats never provide them. Yet these same bloggers or NGO organizers often face persecution. And the failure to advance local elections—a process China started two decades ago, but has virtually abandoned— permits corruption to fester. So do government restrictions on media.

A case in point: Wan Yanhai, China's most prominent AIDS advocate and head of the Beijing Aizhixing Institute for Health Education, who signed Charter 08. A pioneer in HIV-AIDS education, especially with at-risk groups such as ethnic Uighur migrant workers, sex workers, and gays, Wan faced unremitting harassment by government officials. When I visited the institute in May, he had just fled.

I met him in Philadelphia, where he hoped to regroup and work on finding funding for Chinese human rights NGOs. He spoke of decades of persecution. In the mid-1990s, he helped expose a blood-for-cash scheme in which thousands of peasants died of AIDS after blood was donated with unhygienic equipment. The scheme eventually caused a national scandal, but key officials who devised it were promoted, while those who exposed it were hounded.

Wan then worked on expanding sex education in schools in order to lower the rate of HIV-AIDS infection. Officials first opposed sex education, then passed laws that required it but did not enforce them. With Aizhixing, Wan tried to help the most marginalized groups who were the most likely to contract HIV-AIDS.

Wan's work is essential for a healthy China. Like Liu, and other signers of Charter 08, he seeks freedom of expression so the grass roots can expose health threats, and corruption. "My organization supported 150 grassroots organizations across China," he says.

Yet Wan had to leave for fear of arrest. "In the coming two-three years I won't go back," he says, but he still hopes to return "to develop human rights organizations and think tanks in each province."

The Chinese government needs men like Liu and Wan, who seek gradual and essential change. Even Premier Wen Jiabao has said that reform of China's political system is needed to cement its economic gains.

If they were farsighted, Chinese officials would find a face-saving way of reconciling with their Nobel laureate rather than keeping him jailed for 11 years. The Nobel Committee has created an opportunity that Beijing would be foolish to waste.

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Shared values

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

These difficult times tend to make people better or bitter. The CNMI is going through a crucible experience with events that are causing people to reflect on their core assumptions at an emotional level. Some of the assumptions that have worked well in the past are no longer valid; whereas, some assumptions will continue to guide the decisions and actions of individuals.

It's important to periodically evaluate our decision-making processes and the underlying values that influence us, particularly if something isn't working as planned. This is true as an individual, family, organization, or a community. Individuals and organizations tend to drift during times of confusion and chaos. Periodically examining your values serves to renew commitment for values that are deeply shared and promote discussion on the relevance of those values that no longer serve the interests of the organization or its constituents. If the organization is not making a positive impact, then it may be time to make some changes.

I've been reading about individuals who have focused on their values to overcome challenges, become better leaders, and are able to transform their organization to create an empowered culture. Tony Hsieh (pronounced Shay) helped Zappos, a shoe company, grow from almost nothing to over $1 billion in gross merchandize sales annually. In the beginning, Hsieh resisted developing values for the company because he thought of it as a very "corporate" thing to do, and he wanted to maintain a more informal culture. However, as the company grew, it became necessary to formalize the definition of Zappos' culture by getting everyone's input to come up with its core values.

Initially, there were 37 values that helped define Zappos, but over the course of a year those were whittled down to the 10 most important core values that they were willing to hire and fire on. As the company grew larger and faster, their values helped screen applicants that fit with their culture. Zappos conducts two different sets of interviews, the standard interview to determine the applicant's relevant experience and technical ability, and then an interview by the HR department to examine the culture fit. Candidates have to pass both interviews in order to get hired.

Another gentleman by the name of Gordon Binder, the former CEO of Amgen, tells about the time when a middle manager took the initiative to define the company's values. Binder decided it was too great for him to do alone and got the entire company involved. After interviewing 400 people, it was determined that Amgen, a biotechnology company, had eight core values that everything was based on, including their culture. Binder believes that process to clarify the company's values "was the most important thing we ever did." People are hired on the basis of their values, those who live by them are promoted, and individuals who act out of line with the values are fired.

Shared values are just as important for a small company as they are for larger ones. An organization's values are the collective principles and ideals that guide an organization's thoughts and actions as a team. Values are critical because they define the collective character of the firm and serve as decision guidelines. They provide the parameters for the hundreds of decisions we make every day. Values not only let a company know what they should do, but just as importantly, values help determine what a firm stands for and what it will not stand for under any circumstance.

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In a four-year study by John Kotter and John Heskett, involving nine to 10 firms in each of 20 industries, they discovered that firms with a strong corporate culture based on a foundation of shared values outperformed their competitors by a huge margin: their revenue grew more than four times faster; their rate of job creation was seven times higher; their stock price grew twelve times faster, and their profit performance was 750 percent higher.

Your organization's shared values are not just some well-chosen words printed on a placard and hung on your walls. They are the unifying principles that you most care about, and they should come from the beliefs that are inside each individual. For people to understand the values and agree to them, they must participate in the process. Consensus about values encourages consistent implementation throughout the organization.

If you haven't identified your core values, then take the time to develop them. Determine what beliefs and principles you are absolutely committed to live by now and in the future. The challenges we are facing can help solidify our guiding values and foster teamwork and esprit de corps. Challenges offer the opportunities for greatness, if one is ready for the moment and has a solid foundation built on shared core values.

USDOE officials with parents at the Fiesta

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Dr. Carl Harris and Crystal Martinez of the USDOE, on island for a three-day "learning and listening" education tour, cap their meetings with various sectors tonight with parents at Fiesta in Garapan. (Might work in a look-see of the Garapan street market, if the gab time is timed.)

Ms. Martinez previously worked with Obama when he was still a senator, and Dr. Harris comes highly recommended after superintending the Durham school district (I didn't make Tar Heel but I did live in Greensboro in nineteen-forgotten). Ms. Martinez seems focused on organizational human resource and accountability while Dr. Harris has an eye on educational policy, strategic initiatives and technical assistance.

Dr. Harris reportedly participated last month in North Carolina in a dialogue on education and innovation, on how students, teachers and leaders in the United States and abroad are redesigning how we learn for the 21st century.

In our farflung Commonwealth that is still listed as a foreign country on many Internet websites, getting the attention of federal and congressional officers can only be a plus. Getting on the top list of McDo consumption might not be Kilili's office idea of getting us fame and national attention, but hey, it's a good start.

First, the Anakin Skywalker (Dark Vader) perspective.

The Commonwealth excels in skilled incompetence. We shut down government last week because we could not get a budget passed. Voters instinctively (there was not much rational discussion) got tired of running government on "continuing resolution" so they enacted a measure previously that said, no budget, nada moolah para Beach Road bbq. We got our first taste of that wisdom last week and the blame-game was fierce and wide.

TT tutelage left us with an addiction called bureaupathic behavior, social economist Robert Merton's term for the tendency of employees to become more interested in the rules (and their enforcement) than in the purposes and goals of their organization. Save the bureaupathic behavior is on the flipside of adhering to the rule, i.e., we know the nooks and cranny of all exception, and we squeeze through those to serve kin, friends, or the gift-giving foreigner. E.g., CUC discovered a high-metered consumption on electricity not commensurate with the rate of fees collected, leading auditors to concede that connections may be effected on a greasing-the-palms plan.

Now, our educational system. It is very well organized and ordered, with a good story in place, Student First, and a relatively scandal-free reputation on grant audits. Central officers are amiable, and teachers compliant if not docile. Local administrators are not all dictators; and none so far is smart enough to do what a Pennsylvania school did in programming the laptops given students so that they can spy on them when the unit is turned on. Of course, it may not be a bad idea to spot monitor frequently visited websites rather than block/censor access as was done when I was a teacher in A-11 SVES!

It's SpEd is short-handed on qualified personnel but it has generally pacified the parents of affected students that, at least, there is a perceived working together of parents (save the Villa family who are tenacious in asserting their daughter's rights), teachers, and administrators. It's best wisdom, the need for every student to have an IEP, has yet to segue into the general curriculum. That would be too radical.

Howard Gardner's Frames of the Mind laid the foundations for the concept of multiple intelligences (nine categories, pared to eigh in the assessment categories used in PSS professional literature). In an age of biometrics and behaviorists where intelligence is perceived as tabula rasa at birth open to be taught anything anytime, MI provided educational thinkers categories to delineate various forms of learning. Unfortunately, like all categories, we tend to take our theories as limiting pedagogical parameters rather than windows for further adventure, and like the way some folks treat Enneagram (has nine categories) and other personality-type categories (e.g., Myers-Briggs).

Of the nine: factual, analytical, linguistic, spatial, musical, practical, physical, intuitive, and interpersonal, our schools train us in the first, factual (encyclopedic knowledge of inert facts and trivia), and the second, analytical (how to debate and become lawyers, how to be bean-counters and auditors), the targeted of curriculum lesson plans. Linguistic is mired in faux culture pride that has nothing to do with linguistic skills. The rest are collectively grouped under the heading of "After or Out-of-School" activities.

Dr. Harris was smart enough to clarify that he was not here to make financial commitments. Fair enough. We do not wish to have the visit misconstrued as a Kilili political gimmick. As a wit said, "he has an election to lose; the electorate is mean enough to elect him out of office, just for spite." Besides, Federal officers appearance of "endorsement," not unlike this column's candidate choice, is usually perceived as a local aspirant's kiss of death!

What might parents talk about with our USDOE officials? What would they want to know? Maybe, we should just teach them asong! "As a man (sic) thinketh with his heart, so does he live," is a word of wisdom from the Judeo-Christian-Islamic tradition. Maybe, the creation and innovation we can contribute to the learning wisdom of the 21st century is an "education with a heart." Nah!

For the venturesome Han Solo perspective, that will have to wait another DOE visit.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

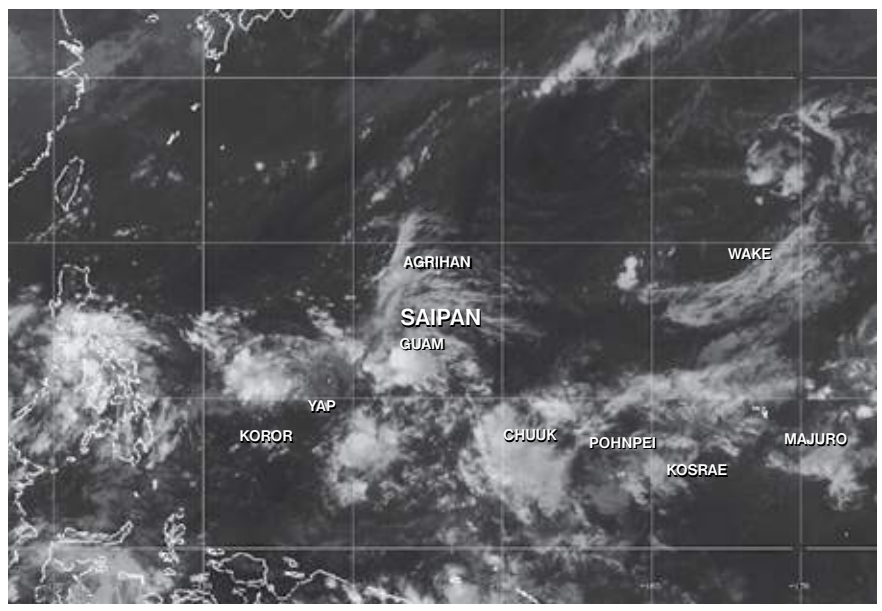
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼75
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲64	▼54
Beijing	Sunny	▲70	▼44
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲83	▼68
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲88	▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼76
Melbourne	Rain	▲53	▼49
Miami	Showers	▲83	▼68
New York	Showers	▲74	▼58
Osaka	Showers	▲74	▼58
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼45
Pusan	Sunny	▲69	▼55
Rome	Showers	▲76	▼55
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼47
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼62
Seoul	Sunny	▲61	▼49
Tokyo	Showers	▲70	▼62
Washington, DC	Rain	▲65	▼49

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical depression 15W centered near 11N141E has maximum sustained Winds of 30 mph and is moving west-southwestward at 8 mph. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are between 8N and 14N from 129E to 146E. For more detailed information, see jtwc and pgum bulletins under wmo headers wtpn31 and wtpq31 respectively. A circulation is also near 12N132E with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 8N and 13N from 130E to 135E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Kosrae within 100 miles of a line from 4N165E to 8N168E and well north of Kwajalein Atoll in an area from 13N161E to 17N168E to 11N167E back to 13N161E. Scattered showers are also widespread east of a line from 18N170E to 5N177E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:27 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
2:13 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
7:28 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
11:27 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:57 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	5:56 PM
Sunday	6:09 AM	5:56 PM
Monday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:03 PM	11:35 PM
Friday	12:49 PM	
Saturday	11:03 PM	12:27 AM
Sunday	2:09 PM	1:17 AM
Monday	2:45 PM	2:04 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
C09316/893	2:45am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:00am	10:55pm	Daily via NRT
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/173	7:50am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9316	4:15pm	3:35am+1	3, 6 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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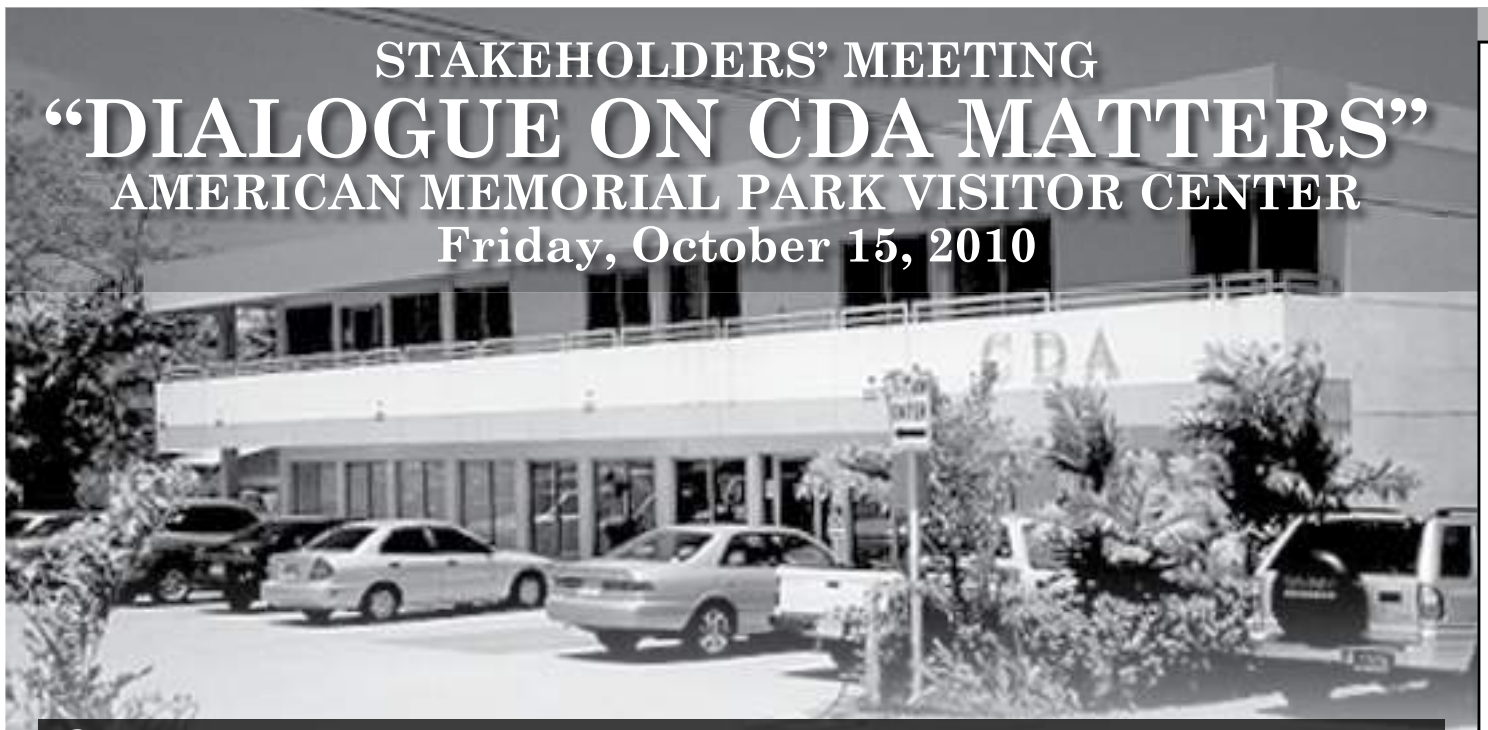
ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



OUTLINE

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	**CDA Introduction – Chairman of the CDA Board of Directors**
9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	**Executive Directors' Report – CDA's Major Accomplishments, Mission, & Strategic Plan**
9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	**Qualifying Certificate Program – Economic Development Analyst**
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	**DCD Introduction – Chairwoman of the DCD Board of Directors**
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	**Loan Programs – Loan Manager**
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	**LUNCH**
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	**Partnership Projects (Stakeholders' Presentation)**
2:00 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.	**Public Comments/Questions & Answers Forum**
3:25 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	**Conclusion**

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
September 18, 1985 to September 18, 2010

Under the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America (U.S. Public Law 94-241), the people of the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) and the United States of America desire to improve their mutually beneficial relationship, and to develop the economic resources referenced in the first Section 701 Covenant Funding needed to meet the fiscal responsibilities of self-government in the NMI. On July 10, 1985, in accordance with U.S. Public Law 99-396 (amendment to U.S. Public Law 94-241), the NMI and the Department of the Interior entered into a Special Representatives Agreement for the second seven-year period of guaranteed annual direct grant assistance for the Northern Mariana Islands. Section 3(f) of the Agreement provides that the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands shall ensure the continued administration of capital development funds by an autonomous public agency of the Northern Mariana Islands, as described in Public Law 4-49. Such administration shall include the coordination and approval of all public financing of capital improvement projects and economic development activities. On September 18, 1985 or twenty-five years and 27 days from today, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) was established by Public Law 4-49 also known as the "CDA Act".

History indicates that the flow of the first seven year Covenant funding started in 1978 for economic development loans. From fiscal year 1978 thru fiscal year 1984, a total of $20,050,000 was allotted to the Economic Development Loan Fund also known as EDLF; $2,864,000 went to housing projects administered by then the Mariana Islands Housing Authority now known as the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. Previous to becoming the CNMI-EDLF, U.S. Public Law 92-257, an Act Relating to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) Section 1, created a total fund of $5,000,000, for a government entity thereafter was known as the Trust Territory Economic Development Loan Fund (TT-EDLF). On December 31, 1976, Memorandum of Understanding No. 2 was signed separating the Northern Marianas Government from the Trust Territory Government; the TT-EDLF became the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Development Loan Fund (NMI-EDLF or CNMI-EDLF). During the second seven-year Covenant funding, CDA was allotted and received $4,343,497 for economic development loans.

After its establishment on September 18, 1985, and via CDA Board Resolution, on September 26, 1985, the CDA inherited all functions, assets, liabilities and personnel of EDLF. Simultaneously, the same day, the CNMI-EDLF Board of Directors transferred to CDA all its functions, assets, liabilities and personnel.

As provided for by the CDA Act, CDA has two functions: the Development Corporation Division which generally serves the private sectors and the Development Banking Division that generally serves the public sectors. In December of 2000, by an act of the Legislature, Public Law 14-32 entitled the "Investment Incentive Act of 2000" was passed creating the Qualifying Certificate Program under the administration of CDA. The program provides for certain tax rebates or tax incentives for businesses in the Commonwealth that qualifies under the program in return for their investment in the CNMI. Since its inception, CDA is governed by a seven (7) member Board of Directors, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate of the Commonwealth Legislature. The Board hires an Executive Director who manages and oversees the day-to-day operations of the CDA. By Law, CDA is limited to 15 employees, excluding the Executive Director and the Comptroller positions.

CDA Stakeholders Meeting
Revitalizing the agency as it reinforces local economy

Since 1985, the Commonwealth Development Authority has helped build up CNMI's public and private sectors by stimulating economic development on the islands.

Formerly known as the Economic Development Loan Fund, CDA's mission is to provide funding for new and ongoing development projects in the commonwealth through its various loan programs.

It also provides technical assistance to these businesses to ensure that clients have the knowledge and skills necessary to deal with radical changes in the market.

After twenty-five years of assisting its clients, CDA continues to move forward according to loan manager Oscar Camacho.

CDA is reaching for greater heights by hosting a stakeholders meeting dubbed "Dialogue on CDA Matters" on Oct. 15 at the American Memorial Park Theatre Hall.

The agency thought of ways to better serve the clients and the community and came up with the stakeholders meeting. The first of this kind of meeting was held in 2007 following the formulation of a Strategic Plan.

"We need to find out how to reposition ourselves and revitalize CDA in order to achieve our mission and improve economic development in the islands," said Camacho.

He said the stakeholders meeting involves presentations and reports from board chair Pedro Itibus and executive director Manuel Sablan highlighting the accomplishments of the agency through the years.

The loan manager said there will also be discussions regarding their different programs such as the Qualifying Certificate and the Loans and Debt Relief Programs.

In the afternoon, Camacho said there will be presentations from private business owners and other clients of the agency who have availed of various programs under CDA.

"This stakeholders meeting is for all stakeholders, and that includes all those who have interest in the economic development of the CNMI. We want you to come and talk to us and find out what we have already done and what we can do for you," he said.

"Dialogue on CDA Matters" will be available for Tinian and Rota stakeholders as it will be streamed live to the Northern Marianas College campus on Rota at Room A2 and on Tinian at Room C.

Stakeholders attending Friday's meeting and are already borrowers will have a chance to join the raffle drawing to be held at CDA's open house from Oct. 18 to 22. At stake are ten credit incentives worth $500 each.

Non-borrowers need not worry as they have a chance to win one of possibly two laptops to be given away by CDA.

Camacho said the stakeholders meeting is only one of the steps to be taken by CDA to help develop a vision for the CNMI economy years from now.

He urged the community to take part in this meeting that he described as very significant for everyone in the commonwealth.

"We need to identify our strengths and weaknesses to figure out a vision for the CNMI. Little things that happen can change things. Incremental steps add up and make a difference," he said.

Live Video Teleconference
Rota – NMC Campus, Rm. A2
Tinian – NMC Campus, Rm. C

Dangjin Middle School Brass Band showcases talent

PHOTOS AND TEXT By
CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Dangjin Middle School Brass Band showed Saipan their exceptional musical talent Tuesday night in a well-attended concert at the Korean Presbyterian Church in Chinatown.

The highly acclaimed brass band from Korea performed *Cielo Andaluz*, *Diagram*, *The Arirang Overture*, a medley of popular songs, the *Mission Impossible* movie theme, and *YMCA*, much to the audience's delight.

Led by principal You Hee Kwon and conductor Yang Seung Goon, the 69-member band also performed for the first time with the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band and the Saipan Community School Brass Band.

Bobby Winkfield, principal of Saipan Community School, hoped that students learned a lot, made new friends, and enjoyed the cultural exchange related to the first band exchange program among the three groups.

"Playing with other bands is a very unique experience and we hope to have more of this in the future," said Kwon in an interview after the concert.

Goon said they are always honored to play in different countries, including Saipan. "Saipan is a small island and has very nice views and clean beaches. We would be honored to come back here in winter of next year," he said.

Some of the members of the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band and the Saipan Community School Brass Band during their opening act on Tuesday night's concert.

Dangjin Middle School principal You Hee Kwon and brass band conductor Yang Seung Goon.

Dangjin Middle School principal You Hee Kwon holds the certificate of appreciation presented by Saipan Mayor Donald Flores before the concert on Tuesday night.

Two female students of Dangjin Middle School show their moves during the popular medley song presentation.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

ADDENDUM NO. 1
08-26-10
ITB10-GOV-157
Puerto Rico Dump Final Closure, Saipan, MP

The previously advertised notice, Invitation To Bids ("ITB") for the **"Puerto Rico Dump Final Closure, Saipan, MP Project"** has been amended. The specific amendment is to extend when the project package will be available, mandatory pre-bid/site visit, when bids are due and when bids will open.

Amendment shall read:

*The project package will be available **Friday, October 01, 2010** at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan, MP. There will be a Mandatory Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project **Thursday, October 14, 2010**, 9:00 a.m., Saipan local time, at the project site, Industrial Drive, Puerto Rico, Saipan, MP. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. Saipan local time **October 20, 2010** to Mr. James R. Stump, CIP Contracting Officer, Office of the Capitol Improvement, 1st Floor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. Bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, **November 08, 2010**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time **November 08, 2010**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **November 08, 2010** and must be received close of business, **November 18, 2010** (Saipan Local Time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid. Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, **November 19, 2010**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, **November 08, 2010.***

All other elements of the ITB remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Office of Capital Improvement, Capitol Hill, Saipan, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

ADDENDUM NO. 2

10-06-10
ITB10-GOV-157
Puerto Rico Dump Final Closure, Saipan, MP

The previously advertised notice, Invitation To Bids ("ITB") for the "Puerto Rico Dump Final Closure, Saipan, MP Project" has been amended. The amendment is to cancel all elements of the invitation to bid marked "ITB10-GOV-157". The Capital Improvement Program still plans to advertise this project in the very near future.

For further information on this project, please contact the Office of Capital Improvement, Capitol Hill, Saipan, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays)

/s/
Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

/s/
Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement & Supply

Business

Surprised promo winner takes home $3,000

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Patricia Ann Cabrera felt she needed to let the organizers of the Foremost Back-2-School Giveaway promotion know about her new phone number.

Cabrera, a Koblerville resident, then called up Foremost Foods Saipan to give them her updated number and inquire about the promo results as well.

It was an opportune time for Cabrera to follow her instincts as her name was drawn as the grand prize winner for the raffle draw.

Cabrera won $3,000 in gift certificates from Megabyte, The Athlete's Foot and Boarderline, and Modern Stationery.

"I really didn't think I would win the entire thing," said Cabrera, adding that she had not previously won anything in raffle draws.

The Foremost Back-2-School Giveaway promo marks the 60th anniversary of the company and is also their way of giving back to the community in time for the opening of another school year.

Cabrera was one among those who purchased specially marked cases of Foremost UHT Reduced Fat liter sized milk at more than 35 participating retailers island-wide.

The specially marked cases had an entry form affixed to its side that was filled out and dropped off at any participating retailers on Saipan.

Foremost Back-2-School Giveaway promo ran from July 9 to Aug. 25. Raffle draw was held during the Back-2-School Expo & 2010 GameCon held at the Saipan Grand Hotel last Sept. 4.

Cabrera said she was ecstatic when she found out that she won the raffle. She said the promotion was a big help for her household.

"With the economy this bad, this is a huge help. It's nice to see Foremost doing promotions that also helps the kids," said Cabrera, a mother of five children.

Cabrera said she is engaged in babysitting and baking as she is currently unemployed. She said she would bake in volume when she gets orders for special occasions.

Cabrera also gives cookies to the children she baby-sits. The lucky mother said she uses Foremost milk when she bakes.

"It's a wonderful thing Foremost is doing this to the community. I'll definitely encourage the others to join in future promotions to experience what I had," she said.

Transpacific International group business manager Glen D. Hunter expressed his gratitude to all those who participated in the promo.

Hunter acknowledged their partners for the promotion: Megabyte, Modern Stationery, and The Athlete's Foot and Boarderline.

"Seeing the joy in the winner's face as we handed her $3,000 in gift certificates was a great feeling. Thank you to all those that entered this contest and keep an eye out for many more big things from Foremost Foods," he said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Rusty M. Loyola, operations manager, Foremost Foods Saipan; Gerry Hemley, sales supervisor, Foremost Foods Saipan; winner Patricia Ann Cabrera; and Glen D. Hunter, group business manager.

Back in business: US lifts deep water drilling ban

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. is back in the deep water oil-drilling business. The question now is when work will resume.

The Obama administration, under heavy pressure from the oil industry and Gulf states and with elections nearing, lifted the moratorium that it imposed last April in the wake of the disastrous BP oil spill.

The ban had been scheduled to expire Nov. 30, but Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said Tuesday he was moving up the date because new rules imposed after the spill had reduced the risk of another catastrophic blowout. Industry leaders warily waited for details of those rules, saying the moratorium wouldn't be truly lifted until then.

"The policy position that we are articulating today is that we are open for business," Salazar declared.

The reality is more complicated. While the temporary ban on exploratory oil and gas drilling is lifted immediately, drilling is unlikely to resume for several weeks at least as oil and gas companies struggle to meet a host of new safety regulations. For example, the CEO of a company responsible for a well would have to certify it had complied with all regulations. That could make the person at the top liable for any future accidents.

"Operators who play by the rules and clear the higher bar can be allowed to resume," Salazar said.

The April 20 BP spill, which was triggered by an explosion that killed 11 people, gushed an estimated 200 million gallons of oil, harming wildlife and severely cramping coastal businesses. BP sealed the well last month and expects to eventually pay at least $32 billion to handle the cleanup and damage claims.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fed leans toward two-step plan to boost economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve is leaning toward taking two steps to boost the economy: Buying more Treasury bonds to drive down loan rates, and signaling an openness to higher prices later to encourage more spending now. Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues appeared to be nearing consensus on those ideas at their September 21 meeting, according to minutes of the closed-door deliberations that were released Tuesday. Economists predict Fed officials will approve the bond purchase program at their Nov. 2-3 meeting. Fed policymakers also spoke at their last meeting about setting a higher inflation target, hoping that would get people to spend more money in short run.

AP sources: EPA expected to OK more ethanol in gas

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Environmental Protection Agency is expected to approve higher concentrations of ethanol for newer vehicles, raising the maximum blend of the corn-based fuel with gasoline from 10 percent to 15 percent. The EPA is expected to say as soon as Wednesday that cars manufactured since 2007 are able to handle the higher ethanol content, according to people with knowledge of the announcement. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the decision. The ethanol industry has maintained that there is sufficient evidence to show that a 15 percent ethanol blend in motor fuel will not harm engine performance. But the auto industry, environmentalists and a broad coalition of other groups have argued against an increase and called for more testing.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BID
MVA-IFB-10-2305

For: Printing of Customs Forms

Closing Date: October 26, 2010 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 10008
Saipan, MP 96950

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Managing Director of the Marianas Visitors Authority are soliciting bids from qualified individuals or firms to print the CNMI Customs Declaration forms.

The scope of work may be picked up at the Marianas Visitors Authority in San Jose, Saipan during working hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

All bids must be signed, sealed and marked MVA-IFB-10-2305 and submitted with one (1) original and two (2) copies and must be received at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m., Saipan Time, October 26, 2010.

Preference is available to U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid of if preference is claimed.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, P&S

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

Robert H. Myers, Jr., Esq.
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 5190 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-8946
Fax (670) 234-8920
Mail to Lwyr4u@gmail.com

Counsel for Administrator and Executrix
PEDRO P. REYES and
DIANE R. DOMINGO

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE ESTATES OF:	Case Nos.
JUAN CH. REYES	04-0128-CV 04-0130-CV
and	04-0091-CV
JOAQUINA P. REYES, Decedents.	NOTICE OF HEARING

TAKE NOTICE the Administrator for the Estate of Juan Ch. Reyes (Civil Action Nos. 04-0128 and 04-0130) and Executrix of the Estate of Joaquina P. Reyes (Civil Action No. 04-0091) will seek joint distribution of these estates on October 19, 2010 at 10:30 am in Courtroom 220A of the Commonwealth Superior Court, Saipan, MP. All interested persons should come, attend and participate at the hearing.

Dated: October 12, 2010

/s/ ROBERT H. MYERS, JR. (F0365)
Attorney for Administrator / Executrix
PEDRO P. REYES
DIANE R. DOMINGO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-11-001

ADDENDUM NO. 3
October 13, 2010

Supply and Delivery of Facility Spill Response and Support Equipment: Power Plant No.1, Saipan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is issuing the following amendments to CUC-IFB-11-001:

BID CLOSING DATE:

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-001, Supply and Delivery of Facility Spill Response and Support Equipment: Power Plant No.1, Saipan", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room 4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 26, 2010 at 10:00 AM, (CST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the complete Bid shall also be sent by email or through compact disks (CD/DVD), to reach the office of procurement at the same time of the bid closing. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS:

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CST) local time on **October 18, 2010** to Mr. Mannny B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement and Supply Manager, CUC P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. William Sword, Technical Manager for Oil, Power Generation - sword.william@gmail.com; Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Managing Engineer, Power Generation venu@cucgov.net; and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

/s/ ABE U. MALAE
Acting Executive Director

Nation

Judge orders 'don't ask, don't tell' injunction

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A federal judge issued a worldwide injunction Tuesday immediately stopping enforcement of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, suspending the 17-year-old ban on openly gay U.S. troops.

U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips' landmark ruling also ordered the government to suspend and discontinue all pending discharge proceedings and investigations under the policy.

U.S. Department of Justice attorneys have 60 days to appeal. Pentagon and Department of Justice officials said they are reviewing the case and had no immediate comment.

The injunction goes into effect immediately, said Dan Woods, the attorney who represented the Log Cabin Republicans, the gay rights group that filed the lawsuit in 2004 to stop the ban's enforcement.

"Don't ask, don't tell, as of today at least, is done, and the government is going to have to do something now to resurrect it," Woods said. "This is an extremely significant, historic decision. Once and for all, this failed policy is stopped. Fortunately now we hope all Americans who wish to serve their country can."

Legal experts say the Obama administration is under no legal obligation to appeal and could let Phillips' ruling stand.

Phillips' decision was widely cheered by gay rights organizations that credited her with getting accomplished what President Obama and Washington politics could not.

"This order from Judge Phillips is another historic and courageous step in the right direction, a step that Congress has been noticeably slow in taking," said Alexander Nicholson, executive director of Servicemembers United, the nation's largest organization of gay and lesbian troops and veterans.

He was the sole named veteran plaintiff in the case along with the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay rights organization that filed the lawsuit in 2004 to stop the ban's enforcement.

Gay rights groups warned gay troops not to make their sexual orientation public just yet. Aaron Tax, the legal director for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, said he expects the Justice Department to appeal. If that happens, the case would be brought to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, where the decision could be reversed.

"Service members must proceed safely and should not come out at this time," Tax said in a statement.

Supporters of the ban said Phillips overstepped her bounds.

"The judge ignored the evidence to impose her ill-informed and biased opinion on our military, endangering morale, health and security of our military at a time of war," said Wendy Wright, president of Concerned Women for America, a women's group on public policy. "She did not do what Congress did when it passed the law and investigate the far-reaching effects of how this will detrimentally impact the men and women who risk their lives to defend us."

AP

In this Tuesday, April 16, 2010 picture, from left, Petty Officer Autumn Sandeen, Lt. Dan Choi, Cpl. Evelyn Thomas, Capt. Jim Pietrangelo II, Cadet Mara Boyd and Petty Officer Larry Whitt, stand together after they handcuffed themselves to the fence outside the White House in Washington during a protest for gay rights.

Helen Thomas on being anti-Semitic: 'Baloney!'

MARION, Ohio (AP)—In a radio interview, former White House correspondent Helen Thomas acknowledges she touched a nerve with remarks about Israel that led to her retirement. But she says the comments were "exactly what I thought," even though she realized soon afterward that it was the end of her job.

Thomas

"I hit the third rail. You cannot criticize Israel in this country and survive," Thomas told Ohio station WMRN-AM in a sometimes emotional 35-minute interview that aired Tuesday. It was recorded a week earlier by WMRN reporter Scott Spears at Thomas' Washington, D.C., condominium.

Thomas, 90, stepped down from her job as a columnist for Hearst News Service in June after a rabbi and independent filmmaker videotaped her outside the White House calling on Israelis to get "out of Palestine." She gave up her front row seat in the White House press room, where she had aimed often pointed questions at 10 presidents, going back to Dwight D. Eisenhower.

She has kept a low profile since then.

"(It was) very hard for the first two weeks. After that, I came out of my coma," Thomas said.

Rabbi David Nesenoff, who runs the website rabbilive.com, said he approached Thomas after he'd been at the White House for Jewish Heritage Day on May 27. He asked whether she had any comments on Israel.

"Tell them to get the hell out of Palestine," she replied.

"Remember, these people are occupied and it's their land. It's not Germany, it's not Poland," she continued. Asked where they should go, she answered, "They should go home."

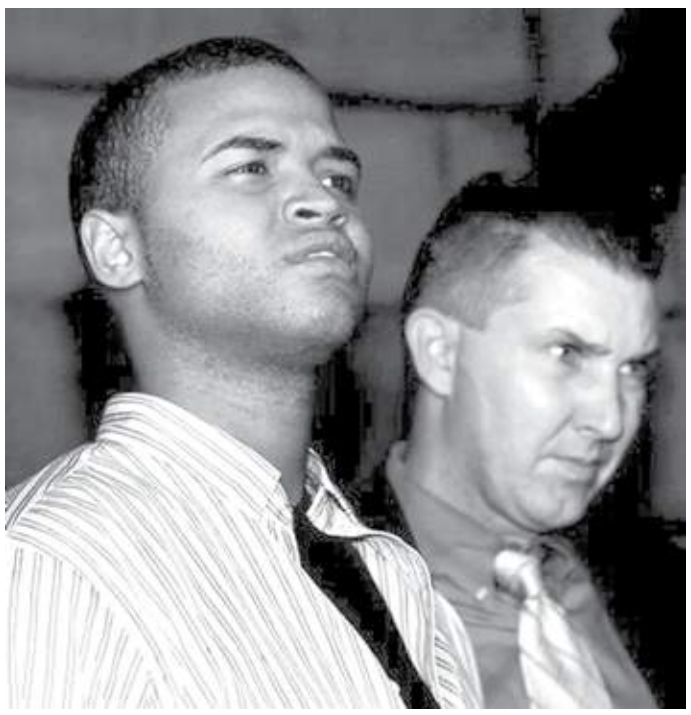
"Where's home?" Nesenoff asked.

"Poland, Germany and America and everywhere else," Thomas replied.

"I told him exactly what I thought," she told Spears.

2 more suspects charged in NYC anti-gay beatings

NEW YORK (AP)—Two additional suspects were charged Tuesday in several brutal attacks that authorities believe were touched off because gang members thought one of their recruits was gay.



AP

Ruddy Vargas-Perez, 22, the ninth and final suspect in a gang related hate crime, is led from the Bronx Borough detective headquarters after he was arrested Monday, Oct. 11, 2010 in New York.

A tenth suspect, 22-year-old Jose Dominguez, surrendered to detectives Tuesday and was arraigned in the Bronx Criminal Court on charges of gang assault, sexual abuse and unlawful imprisonment as hate crimes. It wasn't clear if he had an attorney. No one answered the phone at an address provided by police.

A suspect who was arrested Monday, Ruddy Vargas-Perez, was arraigned Tuesday on charges including robbery, gang assault and unlawful imprisonment as hate crimes.

Benjamin Heinrich, an attorney for Vargas-Perez, said his client was innocent and denied that he was even present at the attacks. He described Vargas-Perez as a hardworking carpenter and family man.

Police say Dominguez and Vargas-Perez participated in at least one of the attacks on two teens and two men on Oct. 3.

Members of a street gang who called themselves the Latin King Goonies targeted a 30-year-old gay man after he apparently had a sexual encounter with one of their recruits, authorities said.

The 17-year-old was beaten and sodomized with the handle of a plunger until he confessed to his involvement with the older man, authorities said. The mob later went after the 30-year-old, luring him to an abandoned apartment they used for partying, where they tied him to a chair and assaulted him, police said.

Another 17-year-old was also attacked because it was believed he too had an encounter with the 30-year-old man, and the older man's brother was also attacked after gang members went to their shared apartment and robbed the place of cash and a TV, police said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Death sentence for Memphis man who killed 6

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—A man who killed six people in a bloody rampage in a Memphis home two years ago, including his brother and two young nephews, was sentenced to die by injection Tuesday by the same jury that convicted him of one of the city's worst mass murders. The jury talked less than two hours before deciding six death sentences for Jessie Dotson, 35, an ex-convict. He showed little reaction as the sentence was delivered, but appeared to nod as Criminal Court Judge James Beasley imposed it. He also nodded as officers led him out of the courtroom. Dotson was found guilty Monday of six counts of first-degree murder in the shooting deaths of his brother, his brother's girlfriend and two other adults, and the fatal stabbings of two nephews, ages 2 and 4.

Police treating missing NC girl case as homicide

HICKORY, N.C. (AP)—Investigators indicated Tuesday they believe someone killed a 10-year-old girl with disabilities who was reported missing over the weekend, and accused her stepmother of trying to throw off investigators with a fake ransom note. Police said the search for Zahra Clare Baker has shifted to a homicide investigation, canceling a missing child alert for the shy but upbeat girl who used hearing aids and a prosthetic leg because of bone cancer. The girl's stepmother, Elisa Baker, is the only person accused in the case so far. Hickory Police Chief Tom Adkins said she was charged with felony obstruction of justice after admitting she wrote the note, which asked for $1 million.

UT teen struck by lightning released from hospital

LAS VEGAS (AP)—One of two teenagers struck by lightning outside their Utah high school was discharged Tuesday from a Las Vegas hospital. Christopher "Dane" Zdunich, 16, was released from University Medical Center just hours after pediatrics chief Meena Vohra said both boys were doing well, but Alexander Lambson, 17, will require skin grafts for burns covering about 15 percent of his body. "They were very critical when they first came in, but gradually they've improved," Vohra said. Hospital spokeswoman Danita Cohen told The Associated Press later that Zdunich had been sent home.

Combine strikes power lines on NJ farm, killing 2

UPPER PITTSGROVE TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey State Police say a farm machine struck overhead power lines and caught fire, killing two workers and injuring a third. Sgt. Julian Castellanos says a chute on a combine the men were operating snagged high-tension wires at about 4:15 p.m. Tuesday on a South Jersey farm. Castellanos says a 69-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene. A second man died at South Jersey Healthcare's Elmer Hospital. A third man was flown to Crozer Chester Medical Center in Chester, Pa. His condition was not immediately available. The farm is located in Upper Pittsgrove Township, Salem County, about 30 miles south of Philadelphia. State police and fire officials are investigating.

World

Nobel winner's wife hopes to collect award

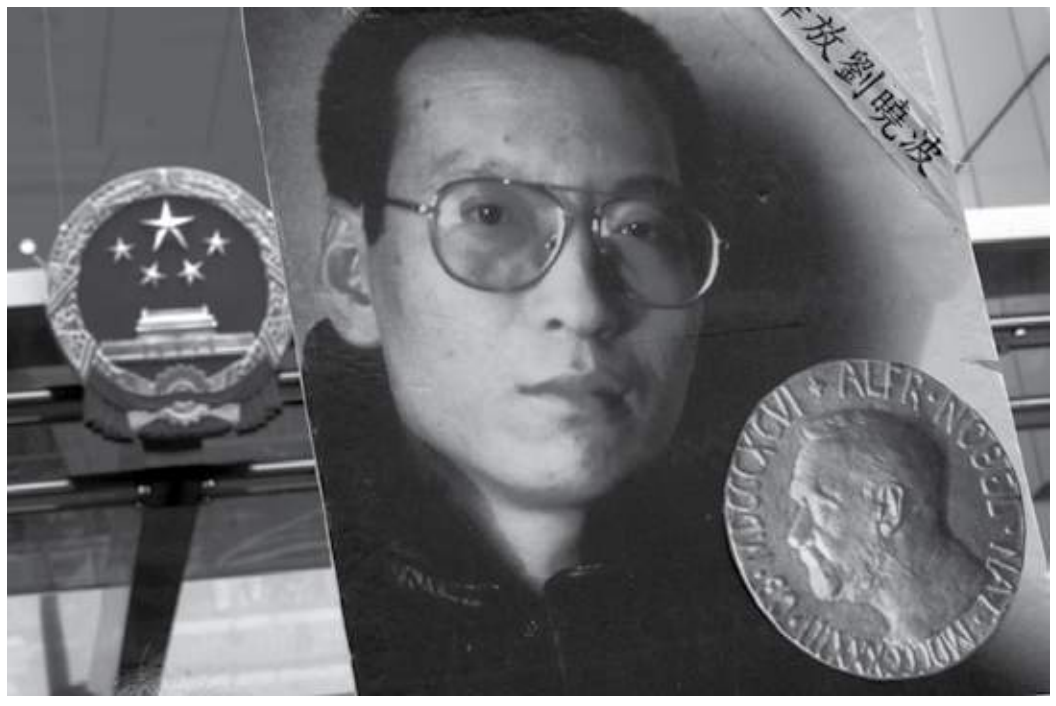
BEIJING (AP)—The wife of the imprisoned Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo said Tuesday she hopes to travel to Norway to collect the Nobel Peace Prize on his behalf, though for now she can only leave her Beijing home under police escort.

China, meanwhile, claimed the award was an attack on the country and an attempt to change its political system, and retaliated by canceling another set of meetings with the Norwegian government.

In brief interviews by phone, Liu Xia said her husband has started receiving better food since the Oslo-based Nobel committee announced the award last Friday—honoring his more than two decades of advocacy of human rights and peaceful democratic change that started with the demonstrations at Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989.

The 54-year-old literary critic is now in the second year of an 11-year prison term after being convicted of inciting subversion over his role in writing an influential 2008 manifesto for political reform.

"He said he hoped I could receive the award on his behalf," Liu Xia told The Associated Press. However, she said she was not optimistic about her chances of leaving since she has been placed under virtual house arrest since the award was announced.



AP

A picture of Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo is carried by a protester during a rally demanding his release outside China's Liaison Office in Hong Kong on Oct. 11, 2010.

"At this point, I can't even get out of my own house door, let alone the gates of the country," she said, adding that she has not been allowed to meet with friends or journalists and police escort her every time she goes outside her home.

China has been infuriated by the prize, accusing other countries Tuesday of using the award to attack the country and warning that it won't change the communist nation's political course.

"If some people try to change China's political system in this way, and try to stop the Chinese people from moving forward, that is obviously making a mistake," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu. "This is not only disrespect for China's judicial system, but also puts a big question mark on their true intentions."

Asked whether Liu Xiaobo would be allowed to collect the award Dec. 10 in Oslo, Ma would only respond by saying that it is "up to judicial authorities." He avoided saying whether Liu's wife would be allowed to go.

He also refused to answer questions about Liu Xia's treatment, even saying at first that he did not who she was.

WORLD BRIEFS

Paula becomes Cat. 2 hurricane, threatens Cancun

CANCUN, Mexico (AP)—A strengthening Hurricane Paula roared toward Mexico's resort-dotted Yucatan Peninsula on Tuesday. The hurricane smashed homes and forced schools to cancel classes in Honduras early Tuesday, then grew into a Category 2 storm with top sustained winds of 100 miles per hour (160 kph) on its way to the Yucatan, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said. Moving north-northwest at near 10 mph (17 kph), Paula's center was expected to pass just to the east of Cancun on Wednesday morning, and could near Category 3 strength by then, the center said. It warned that preparations to protect life and property should be rushed to completion.

Myanmar's Suu Kyi says she won't vote in elections

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Detained Myanmar pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has decided not to vote in upcoming elections, even though authorities have told her she is on the electoral roll, her lawyer said Tuesday. Suu Kyi's lawyer, Nyan Win, said she informed him that she does not intend to vote in the Nov. 7 general elections in which her now-disbanded party has decided not to participate. The military government dissolved her National League for Democracy party because it declined to reregister for an election it considers unfair and undemocratic. Nyan Win told reporters her position after meeting her for 2 1/2 hours at her home Tuesday.

French strikes disrupt life, shut Eiffel Tower

PARIS (AP)—A nationwide strike by major French unions canceled flights and trains and shut the Eiffel Tower Tuesday, disrupting daily life for many and putting new pressure on the government to drop a plan to raise the retirement age by two years. Unionized train and Paris public transport workers vowed to stay off the job for at least another day, and police said at least 1.2 million people marched in protests against the plan, the largest turnout in four nationwide demonstrations over the last five weeks. That could be a signal of rising momentum for the movement facing off against President Nicolas Sarkozy's governing conservatives over its proposal to raise the retirement age from 60 to 62.

Photo confirms apparent leak before Hungary spill

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)—An aerial photo taken months before a gigantic reservoir unleashed torrents of toxic sludge shows a faint red trail trickling through the container wall—part of a growing body of evidence that inspectors who gave the pit a clean bill of health may have missed warning signs.

Police were examining the photo Tuesday as part of an investigation into how part of the wall containing the 10 million cubic meters (350 million cubic feet) of caustic slurry could have given way without structural weaknesses being detected by a team of inspectors from the government environmental agency who inspected the container pond less then two weeks before the spill.

Disaster commissioner Gyorgy Bakondi, appointed to the newly created post Monday night, said Tuesday the inspections were under investigation, including claims by environmental inspectors that "they had found everything in order."

As the police probe gathered steam, judicial authorities scheduled a court appearance for Zoltan Bakonyi, the managing director of MAL Rt., or the Hungarian Aluminum Production and Trade Company, the company that owned the reservoir, to decide whether he should be formally charged, if so, with what, and whether he should remain in custody.

The photo showing an apparent leak of red sludge on the northern wall of the reservoir—the same wall that partially collapsed eight days ago—was taken by Interspect, a Hungarian company specializing in aerial photography that invests some of its profits on environmental projects, such as taking photos of locations in Hungary which could be at environmental risk. Interspect director Gabor Bako said he shot the photo June 11, nearly 4 months before the spill. He said the company shared the photo with universities and environmental groups "but no further steps were taken in the matter" until the wall collapsed freeing the caustic muck that flooded three west Hungarian villages about 170 kilometers (just over 100 miles) from Budapest before being carried by local waterways into the Danube River.

Although Interspect found many suspicious sites around the country, "we're not construction engineers or specialists who could interpret what the picture showed," he told The Associated Press, still hoping to gather experts who could review the photos.

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Environment

Communism left toxic legacy in Eastern Europe

By ALISON MUTLER and GEORGE JAHN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—Abandoned mines in Romania leach waters contaminated by heavy metals into rivers. A Hungarian chemical plant produces more than 100,000 tons of toxic substances a year. Soil in eastern Slovakia is contaminated with cancer-producing PCBs.

The flood of toxic sludge in Hungary is but one of the ecological horrors that lurk in Eastern Europe 20 years after the collapse of the Iron Curtain, serving as a reminder that the region is dotted with disasters waiting to happen.

Much of Eastern Europe is free of many of its worst environmental sins with the help of Western funds and conditions imposed on Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic in exchange for membership in the European Union.

Still, the sludge has focused attention on less-visible dangers that survived various cleanups in the region.

The caustic spill—Hungary's worst ecological disaster—also has raised questions about whether investors who took over Soviet-era factories from the state 20 years ago are at fault for not spending enough on safety.

Eight people died in the Oct. 4 deluge of red sludge from a 10-hectare (24-acre) storage pool where a byproduct of aluminum production is kept.

Calls for greater cleanup efforts apply not only to Hungary, which considered itself ahead of most of the former Soviet bloc in fixing ecological harm, but also to neighbors like Serbia that hope to join the 27-nation bloc.

"The scary thing is we didn't know this existed and there could be other ones," says Andreas Beckmann, director of the World Wildlife Fund Danube-Carpathian program, alluding to the Hungarian spill. "How many other facilities and sites are there that could be a ticking time bomb?"

Environmentalists warn of other potential disasters from seven storage ponds about 60 miles (100 kilometers) northwest of Budapest that hold 12 million tons of sludge accumulated since 1945 - more than 10 times the amount that spilled this week.

"If the gates break there, much of Hungary's drinking water would be endangered," says WWF official Martin Geiger.

Other sites—like the Borsodchem plant in northeastern Hungary—pose similar risks to groundwater. That factory churns out 100,000 tons of the toxin PVC that contains dioxin, the same poison released into the air by a factory explosion in Seveso, Italy 34 years ago that killed hundreds of animals and turned much of the town into a no man's land.

Slovakia, Hungary's northern neighbor, has its own toxic problems, including a huge area in the east of the country that is still contaminated with PCBs from communist times.

Government officials in Bulgaria, alarmed by the Hungarian spill, have ordered safety checks of a dozen waste dams—huge reservoir walls that hold back often heavy metal-laden waste that are prone to leaks or collapse.

In Bulgaria's most serious such accident, walls at a lead and copper processing factory in Zgorigrad broke in 1966, releasing a flood of sludge that killed 488 people and left much of the immediate area uninhabitable.

Activists say smaller leaks are not uncommon. Ecologist Daniel Popov says sludge from a storage pond containing waste from copper ore leaked into the Topolnitsa River in central Bulgaria last spring, killing fish.

AP

In this Feb. 12, 2000 file photo a number of perch poisoned by cyanide lie on the bank of Tisa river, in Becej, some 120 km (74 miles) north of Belgrade in Vojvodina province, Yugoslavia. The deadly cyanide spill has killed a huge number of fish in the Tisa river in Yugoslavia. The spill originated in Romania where a dam at the Baia Mare gold mine overflowed on January 30th, causing cyanide to pour into the Lapus and then to Samos river. From there, the polluted water ran west into neighboring Hungary.

The inspections are only for operational waste dams, prompting criticism from environmental activists.

Of particular concern, a WWF report says, is a dam near the town of Chiprovtsi in northwestern Bulgaria because it is directly on the Ogosta River, a major Danube tributary.

Hungary's sludge ponds are a legacy of the Soviet era, when Moscow designated that country as the main producer of alumina, used in the manufacture of aluminum. Reservoirs full of heavy metal-laced sludge are also a threat elsewhere.

A huge storage pond full of corrosive sludge in Romania is part of the landscape of the gritty Danube port of Tulcea. WWF activists say leaks and airborne pollution from the site is responsible for fish and bird deaths nearby.

The Danube—Europe's second-longest waterway—appears to have escaped immediate harm from the recent Hungarian spill. The same kind of spill at the Tulcea plant would devastate a vast stretch of lakes and marshes at the Danube's entry into the Black Sea that has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. It hosts more than 300 species of birds and 45 freshwater species of fish.

Memories of an environmental disaster a decade ago in Romania have triggered emergency measures for Tulcea and other suspect sites. That's when a reservoir burst at a gold mine in the northwestern town of Baia Mare on Jan. 30, 2000, spilling cyanide-laden water into local rivers and killing tons of fish and other wildlife.

Romanian Environment Minister Laszlo Borbely said Friday his country is accelerating cleanup plans for 1,000 contaminated sites.

"We must be very cautious now after what happened here in Baia Mare and now in Hungary," he said. Romania could access up to 100 million euros ($138 million) in EU funds to decontaminate polluted sites, he said.

Some of Eastern Europe's worst environmental horrors were in Romania—among them Copsa Mica, where TV images of black toxic soot from chimneys of a rubber-dye factory falling onto houses, fields, grazing sheep and townspeople shocked the world in 1989.

International outrage contributed to the plant's 1993 closure. But "historic pollution" with heavy metals from the 40 years that it operated continues to foul the air. Life expectancy in the area is nine years lower than the national average of 72.

The Danube is shared by seven countries, and it has been the victim of toxic spills even before Hungary's caustic red muck.

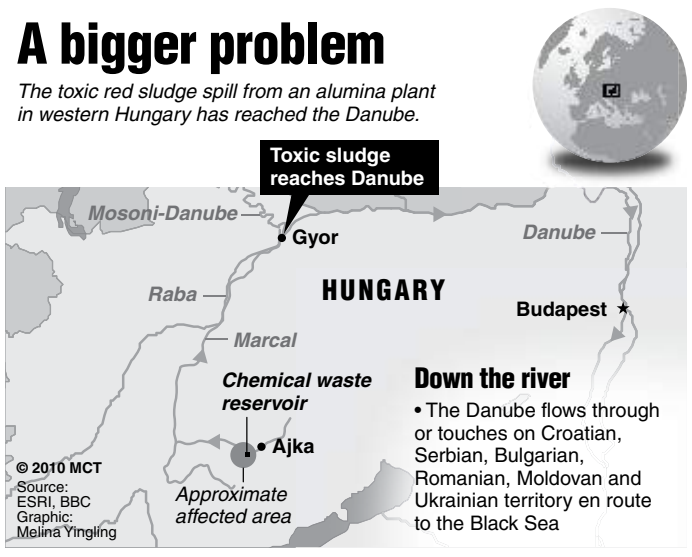
Among the worst incidents came 11 years ago during NATO's bombing of Serbia, when warplanes targeted fertilizer and vinyl chloride manufacturing plants and an oil refinery in the town of Pancevo, near Belgrade, releasing mercury, dioxins and other deadly compounds into the river.

Foreign funding after the war allowed authorities to contain some of the leaks, but sporadic emissions of toxic gases continue to drive air pollution above accepted levels.

Also near Belgrade, an open pit in Obrenovac just 100 meters (yards) from the Sava—a Danube tributary—contains millions of tons of coal ash from the Nikola Tesla Coal Power Plant. The air has unhealthy levels of carbon black, also known as lampblack, for as much as a third of the year. Sprinklers to prevent the ash from becoming airborne are of limited effectiveness on windy days.

Croatia lists nine locations where dangerous waste has been deposited for decades that still need to be cleaned, said Toni Vidan of the group Green Action.

In Vranjic near Split, a factory producing asbestos closed several years ago, but the waste—about 7,000 cubic meters (9,100 cubic yards) of material mixed with asbestos—hasn't been completely cleaned up. Two years ago, the presence of asbestos in Vranjic was three times greater than allowed. Even today, residents say particles of asbestos are in the air when the wind blows.



Life & Style

Hilary Duff stays young with first novel

NEW YORK (AP)—Hilary Duff may be a recently married young woman of 23, but when it comes to books she's not quite ready to grow up.

"I love reading young adult books even though I'm a little older than the set demographic for YA," she said Tuesday. "I love adventure. I relate to girl characters, love, finding yourself and breaking out of the mold that people put you in."

It makes sense then that the actress and singer would decide to write her first novel "Elixir" for the younger set.

Duff may have a feel for her reading audience, too, from knowing her viewing audience. Duff played Lizzie MacGuire for two seasons on the Disney Channel from 2001-2004. Fans who watched her on TV may also want to check out her book.

"Elixir" is about a young photojournalist named Clea Raymond whose photos have extra images in them that weren't there originally. Then her father disappears. Clea sets off to unravel the mystery of both.

"This idea just kept coming to me and building in my head. I thought 'What am I gonna do with this? Am I gonna write a script or pitch the idea? Have someone else write it?' And then I thought 'I'm open for a new challenge. I'm going to try to write a book.'"

Duff has had a busy year. Besides writing, she also wed pro hockey player Mike Comrie in August.

She says publishing deadlines can be more stressful than planning a wedding.

"It's very similar ... They (publishers at Simon & Schuster Children's) were very good to me during the writing process and very lenient with dates and stuff until the very end. Then it got hectic. I was planning the wedding, and there's deadlines with that, too, like getting the location and getting your dress at a certain time ... I tend to do everything at the last minute ... I couldn't even choose which one is harder. I guess I'd say the book."

Duff plans "Elixir" to be the first in a series of novels. She will begin its sequel in a few weeks.

"That's one thing I learned during the writing process. So much changes. You have an idea in your head and then more ideas come with that idea and then your premise can kind of change."

Next up, Duff will guest star on the NBC sitcom "Community" in November.

AP

Actress and recording artist Hilary Duff poses for a portrait Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010 in New York.

Howard Jacobson wins Booker Prize

LONDON (AP)—British writer Howard Jacobson won the prestigious Booker Prize Tuesday with his philosophical comedy "The Finkler Question," beating five other writers, including two-time winner Peter Carey and the bookies' favorite, Tom McCarthy.

AP

The six books shortlisted for the 2010 Man Booker Prize are held at a photocall on the stage of the Royal Festival Hal in London, Sunday, Oct. 10, 2010.

Jacobson, who had been on the long list twice for the 50,000 pounds ($80,000) prize but had never been shortlisted until this year, jokingly said he had prepared acceptance speeches for over two decades before eventually winning the award.

"I'm speechless," he began as he took to the stage at London's Guild Hall. "Fortunately I prepared one earlier. It's dated 1983, that is how long the wait's been."

The 58-year-old, who has written 15 novels, is known for his comic touch and his treatment of Jewish themes. His latest, he said, is a comedy about sorrow. The tale, about the lives and losses of two old friends and their teacher, was affected by the deaths of several of Jacobson's close friends, he said.

"These things get to you. What I wanted to do though is to feel that I can go on writing an entertaining novel even though the light deepens and darkens and this does become a very dark novel," he said.

Chief judge and former poet laureate Andrew Motion called the book a "completely worthy winner of this great prize."

"'The Finkler Question' is a marvelous book: very funny, of course, but also very clever, very sad and very subtle," he said.

Jacobson was competing against such strong contenders as Carey, an Australian who won Bookers in 1988 for "Oscar and Lucinda" and in 2001 for "True History of the Kelly Gang." His historical novel "Parrot and Olivier in America," inspired by the American travels of French philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville, was on the short list for this year's award.

Lesser-known British writer McCarthy was odds-on favorite for his experimental tale of time and technology, "C." McCarthy's story of a technology-obssessed 20th-century everyman has drawn comparisons to James Joyce.

The other contenders include "Room" by Irish-Canadian writer Emma Donoghue, the story of a boy and his mother held captive in a garden shed; "In a Strange Room" by South Africa's Damon Galgut; and "Small Island" author Andrea Levy's "The Long Song," the story of a slave on a 19th-century Jamaican sugar plantation.

Jacobson had not been widely seen as a favorite for Tuesday's prize, but some say he should have been recognized earlier for his unique blend of the intellectual and the entertaining.

"He consistently combines wit, poignancy, erudition and elegant writing to produce wonderfully accomplished novels," said Jonathan Ruppin, of London's Foyles book shop. "He's a vivid and valuable example of how intellect and entertainment are not mutually exclusive."

The Booker is open to writers from Britain, Ireland and the Commonwealth of former British colonies, and the winner often gets a huge publicity boost as well as the check.

Last year's winner, Hilary Mantel's Tudor saga "Wolf Hall," became an international best-seller. The prize was founded in 1969 and is officially called the Man Booker Prize after its sponsor, financial services conglomerate Man Group PLC.

Jacobson was longlisted for the Booker in 2006 for "Kalooki Nights" and in 2002 for "Who's Sorry Now."

Egypt court jails 11 for stolen Van Gogh

CAIRO (AP)—An Egyptian court convicted 11 officials from the Culture Ministry, including the deputy minister, of gross negligence and incompetence in the theft of a Vincent Van Gogh painting that embarrassed the government.

The defendants received sentences of three years in prison and will have to post a bond of $1,800 to stay out of prison until the appeal.

The "Poppy Flower," valued at $50 million was stolen in broad daylight from Cairo's Mahmoud Khalil Museum. Subsequent investigations revealed that no alarms and only seven of 43 security cameras were working.

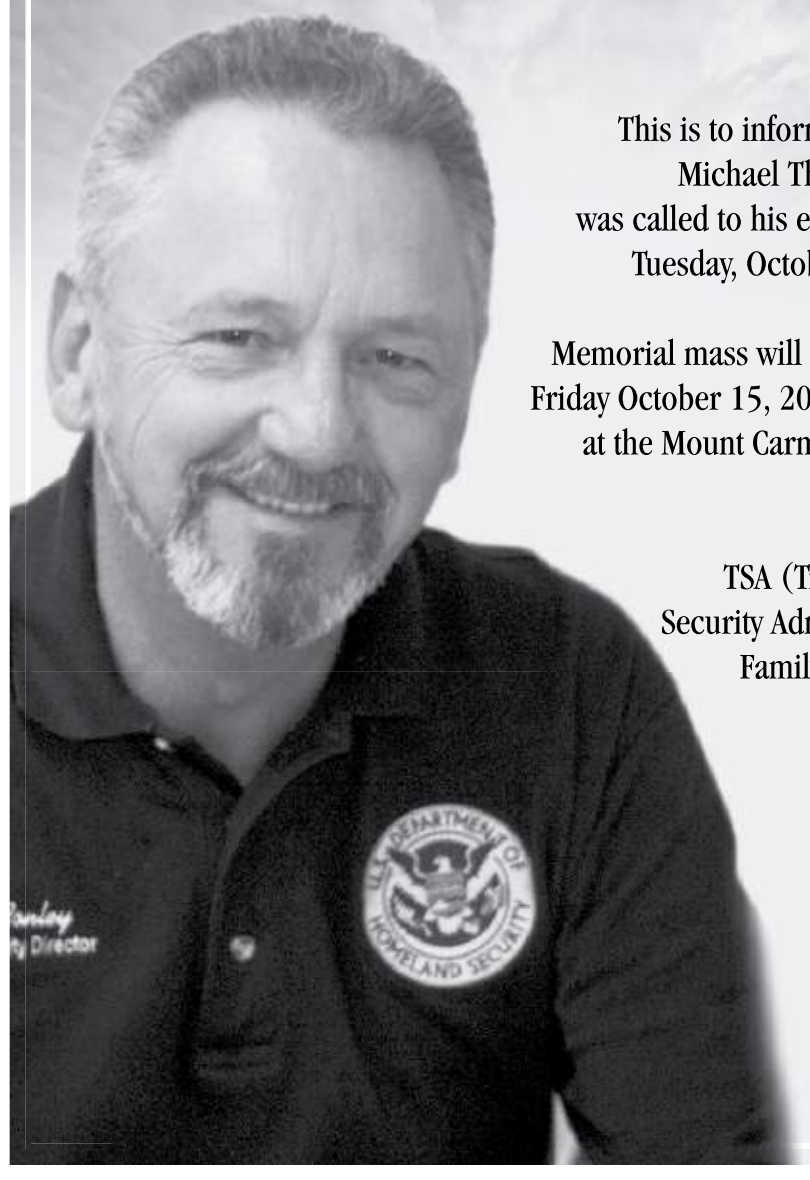
In addition to the poor security, thieves took advantage of the moment when museum guards were praying, to slice the canvas out of its frame with box cutters.

In the course of the trial, Deputy Minister Mohsen Shalaan, and a number of museum officials said they had asked the culture minister for nearly $7 million to upgrade security systems, including at the Mahmoud Khalil Museum, but that only $88,000 was approved.

The Mahmoud Khalil Museum's director, Reem Bahir, said Hosni knew about the dysfunctional cameras and alarm system but said there was no budget for upgrading them. Culture Minister Farouk Hosni, himself, also testified during the trial and dismissed his subordinates accusations.

He told prosecutors he had delegated full responsibility for the museum to Shalaan and had presented documents that showed a presidential decree approving just over $10 million to renovate it. Authorities have not made public any information about progress in the search for the painting or the thieves.

MICHAEL THOMAS CONLEY



This is to inform friends that
Michael Thomas Conley
was called to his eternal rest on
Tuesday, October 12, 2010.

Memorial mass will be offered on
Friday October 15, 2010 at 9:00am
at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

From:
TSA (Transportation
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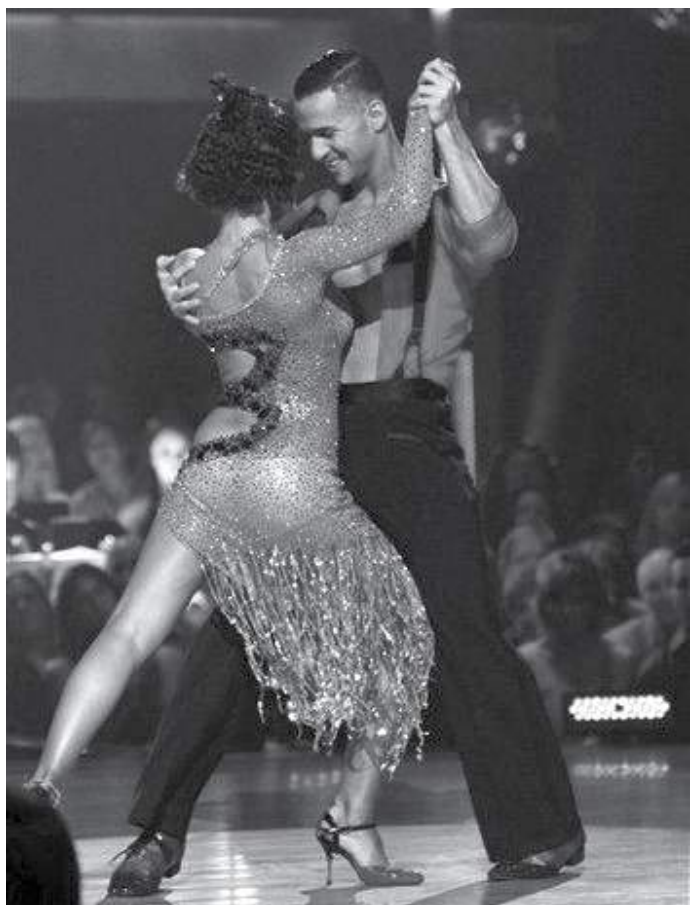
Family and Friends

No Situation here: Mike Sorrentino done 'Dancing'



◀ In this publicity image released by ABC, Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino, right, and his partner Karina Smirnoff perform on the celebrity dance competition series, "Dancing with the Stars," Monday, Oct. 11, 2010 in Los Angeles. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino is headed back to the Jersey shore.

The reality star with the chiseled abs was eliminated from "Dancing With the Stars" Tuesday. He and professional partner Karina Smirnoff came into the show in last place after performing an Argentine tango Monday that one judge called "a terrible mess."

"It was consistent," said head judge Len Goodman. "It was bad throughout."

Sorrentino said Tuesday that he was committed to the contest and had given it his all.

"I told myself if I got eliminated today, I put it all on the floor last night," he said. "So if it (happened), I'd bow out gracefully."

He also said he thought the judges' scores were unfair.

"The judges were so unpositive and didn't even see the work I put in, didn't even see the progress I made this week and you know what, you know what? I'm done with this," a frustrated Sorrentino said in a clip shot Monday that aired during Tuesday's episode.

Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which couple is ousted each week.

Sorrentino, 29, joins previously eliminated contestants David Hasselhoff, Michael Bolton and Margaret Cho.

Tuesday's episode also featured musical performances by the Goo Goo Dolls and Florence + The Machine and a dance performance by the cast of "Forever Tango."

Returning to dance Monday will be actors Jennifer Grey, Kyle Massey and Florence Henderson; singer-actress Brandy; athletes Kurt Warner and Rick Fox; reality star Audrina Patridge and Bristol Palin.

Eminem, Lady Antebellum lead American Music picks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Eminem and Lady Antebellum lead nominees for the 38th annual American Music Awards with five nods each. Teen heartthrob Justin Bieber has four nominations, while Katy Perry, Ke$ha, B.o.B. and Usher have three each.

Singers Demi Lovato and Taio Cruz made the announcement Tuesday in Los Angeles.

Eminem and Bieber are each up for favorite pop/rock artist and album, and the rapper is also nominated for favorite artist and album in the rap/hip-hop category. Both Bieber and Eminem are also nominated for artist of the year, along with Perry, Ke$ha and Lady Gaga.

AP
In this Sept. 13, 2010 file photo, rapper Eminem performs at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Lady Antebellum is nominated for favorite band, duo or group in the pop/rock and country categories, along with favorite country album, favorite adult contemporary artist and the breakthrough artist award.

Music fans can choose winners in the show's nine categories by voting online. Nominees were selected based on chart ratings for sales and radio and Internet play.

The American Music Awards will be presented Nov. 21 at the Nokia Theatre and broadcast live on ABC. Bon Jovi, Usher and P!nk are slated to perform.

Jerry Seinfeld finds himself a Broadway director

NEW YORK (AP)—One word seems to best describe Jerry Seinfeld's role as a Broadway director: reluctant.

The TV and stand-up star said he began helping comedian Colin Quinn develop material for what would become Quinn's one-man stage show "Long Story Short" and then got roped into directing a work that traces global events from the caveman to the digital age in just 75 minutes.

"There is very little performance comedy that works on his intellectual level. He's one of these guys that can do it. It just needed a form," Seinfeld said during a press event Tuesday to publicize the show. "I kind of challenged him to come up with a form and he did. And then once he did, I was kind of stuck getting involved with it."

In the show, Quinn—the former host of MTV's late-1980s game show "Remote Control" and a "Saturday Night Live" cast member—takes audiences through the history of the world, highlighting why empires always seem to fail. "This show is about how human nature just steps in every time and ruins everything," he said.

AP
Colin Quinn, left, and Jerry Seinfeld discuss "Long Story Short", the one-man theatrical show moving to Broadway starring Colin Quinn and directed by Jerry Seinfeld, at a news conference in New York, Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010.

The show debuted off-Broadway this summer to generally good reviews and now goes on Broadway at the Helen Hayes Theatre for an 11-week run starting Oct. 22.

Seinfeld and Quinn, who met decades ago while working comedy clubs, said collaborating on this project was easy since they both know stand-up and have complementary talents.

"I'm very smart about being funny and he's very funny about being smart," said Seinfeld. "He's really a smart guy that figured out how to be funny, and I'm smart about taking funny and figuring out how to pace it and organize it. So it was a good blend of skills."

Jury ends first day of talks in Smith drug case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A jury has ended its first day of deliberations in the Anna Nicole Smith drug conspiracy case without reaching a verdict.

On Tuesday, the panel chose as its foreperson a woman with a doctorate in biology who promised during jury selection not to substitute her own medical expertise for that of witnesses.

Jurors must decide whether the three defendants provided excessive opiates and sedatives to the former Playboy model while knowing she was an addict. Defense lawyers said Smith was not an addict and the medications were for pain.

Drs. Sandeep Kapoor and Khristine Eroshevich and Smith's boyfriend-lawyer Howard K. Stern have pleaded not guilty to charges including prescribing under false names. They are not charged in Smith's 2007 overdose death in Florida.

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Life As We Know It
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:55
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Monday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Tues through Thurs 4:25 7:25
Katherine Heigl, Josh Duhamel
Drama, Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
In the romantic comedy Life as We Know It, Holly Berenson is an up-and-coming caaterer and Eric Messer is a promising network sport director. After a disastrous first date, the only thing they have in common id their dislike for aech other and their love for their goddaughter, Sophie. But when they suddenly become all Sophie has in the world, Holly and Messer are forced to put their differences aside.

My Soul To Take
Friday 4:30 7:30 10:00
Saturday & Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Monday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Tues through Thurs 4:30 7:30
Max Thieriot, John Magaro
Drama • Rated R
Synopsis
A notorious serial killer uses his dying breath to place a deadly curse on a small town in this shocker from legendary horror director Wes Craven (Scream, A Nightmare on Elm Street). It's been 16 years since the maniac who terrorized Riverton met his grim demise. Seven children were born on the night he died, and he vowed that he would return one day to claim them all.

Eat, Pray, Love
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:40
Saturday & Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:40
Monday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Tues through Thurs 4:00 7:00
Julia Roberts, James Franco
Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
A woman who once made it her goal in life to marry and rear a family finds her priorities suddenly shifting in director Ryan Murphy's adaptation of author Elizabeth Gilbert's best-selling memoir. In the eyes of many, Gilbert was a woman who had it all—a loving husband, a great apartment, and a weekend home—but sometimes one realizes too little too late that they haven't gotten what they truly wanted from life.

Sa'yo Lamang
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:50
Saturday & Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Monday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Tues through Thurs 4:15 7:15
Lorna Tolentino, Christopher de Leon
Drama • Rated N/R

Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:45
Saturday & Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Monday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Tues through Thurs 4:10 7:10
Michael Douglas, Shia LeBeouf
Drama • Rated PG 13

Legend Of The Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:30
Saturday & Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:30
Monday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Tues through Thurs 4:20 7:20
Sam Neil, Geoffrey Rush
Fantasy, Action • Rated PG

You Again
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:35
Saturday & Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Monday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Tues through Thurs 4:05 7:05
Jamie Lee Curtis, Sigourney Weaver
Comedy • Rated PG

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Christina Aguilera and husband separate

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Christina Aguilera and her husband of nearly five years have separated. The "Beautiful" singer says in a statement released Tuesday that she and husband Jordan Bratman's commitment to their 2-year-old son remains "as strong as ever."

The Grammy Award winner's statement did not indicate when the couple split or whether either would file for divorce.

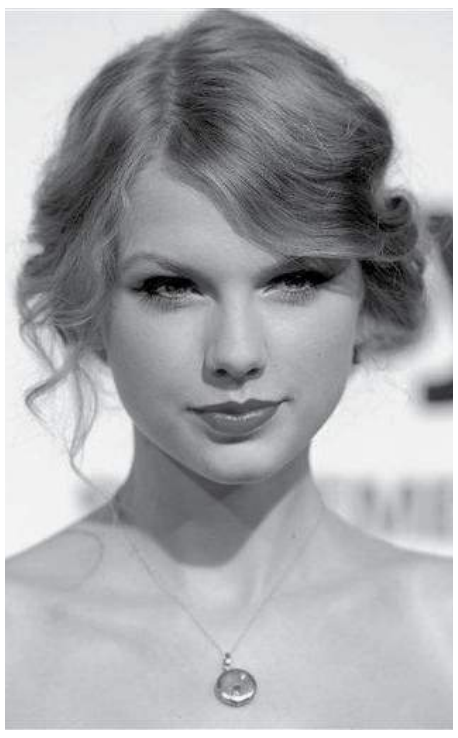
Court records in Los Angeles do not show any filing by either Aguilera or Bratman.

The couple married in November 2005. Their split was first reported by US Weekly.

AP

In this March 23, 2007 file photo originally provided by Starpix, singer Christina Aguilera and her husband Jordan Bratman attend a party at the Marquee club in New York.

TV specials showcase Taylor Swift's concert tour



AP

In this Sept. 13, 2010 file photo, singer Taylor Swift arrives at the premiere of the film "Easy A" in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Taylor Swift's "Fearless" concert tour is starring in three TV specials.

"Taylor Swift's Journey to Fearless" will air on The Hub network that launched this week, replacing Discovery Kids.

Swift's 2009-10 "Fearless" sold-out tour was based on the album of the same name.

The shows about the making of the tour will debut Oct. 22, 23 and 24 at 7 p.m. EDT and include previously unaired footage, The Hub network said Tuesday.

"The `Fearless' tour was an amazing journey, from the fun we had behind the scenes to the shows themselves," Swift said.

"Fearless" was the top-selling album of 2009 and earned Swift every major award, including four Grammys. Her third studio album, "Speak Now," is set for an Oct. 25 worldwide release.

The Hub, backed by toy maker Hasbro, focuses on a 6-year-old to 11-year-old audience. Hasbro Studios produced the Swift concert series.

Intruder arrested outside Paris Hilton's LA house

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police say an intruder has been arrested after a scuffle with a security guard outside Paris Hilton's Los Angeles home.

Police spokesman Bruce Borihanh says the man passed through the gates of the complex on a bike at about noon Tuesday, began banging on her door and refused to leave when security guards asked him.

He was arrested on suspicion of assault on the guard and was being booked at the LAPD's Van Nuys station. His name and age have not been released.

It's not clear whether Hilton was home.

This was the second incident in recent months involving an intruder targeting Hilton. Nathan Lee Parada pleaded not guilty to felony attempted residential burglary after he allegedly showed up outside the socialite's home wielding two knives in August.

AP

In this June 14, 2010 file photo, Paris Hilton arrives at the Activision E3 2010 Preview event in Los Angeles.

Janet Dacal to star as Alice on Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—Janet Dacal (duh-CAHL') will star in a new Broadway-bound musical inspired by "Alice in Wonderland."

Dacal, whose previous Broadway credits include "In The Heights" and "Good Vibrations," has been cast as Alice in "Wonderland—A New Alice. A New Musical." She'll perform the title role both in Tampa, Fla., in January and when the show makes its debut on Broadway on April 17.

Frank Wildhorn, who created "Jekyll and Hyde," provides the music. Gregory Boyd directs and co-wrote the story with Jack Murphy. It's about a modern-day woman who goes on an adventure far below the streets of New York City, where she encounters characters from the classic tale.

The show also stars such Broadway veterans as Darren Ritchie of "Little Shop of Horrors," Titus Burgess of "Jersey Boys" and Karen Mason of "Hairspray."

AP

In this theater publicity image released by Boneau/Bryan-Brown, actress Janet Dacal who will play Alice in Frank Wildhorn's "Wonderland," is shown.

Girls avoid college pressure by having 'prom baby' instead

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Do you have any data on the success of remarrying your ex-spouse? After being married to my husband for 25 years, we divorced due to his infidelity. We have been divorced for eight years and have had no contact.

A family member's funeral brought us face-to-face again, and we have been in touch ever since. Neither of us has remarried or been in a relationship. We realize that we still have feelings for each other and have discussed remarrying in the future.

I love him, but I'm wary of being hurt again. What do you think? Does remarrying your ex ever work?

HAVING SECOND (TIME) THOUGHTS

DEAR SECOND THOUGHTS: It can work, provided you're both willing to deal with the issues that broke you up in the first place. By that, I mean that you must be ready to examine whether there was something missing in the marriage that caused your husband to cheat, or whether he has a character flaw and would repeat his infidelity.

I strongly recommend you do this with the assistance of a licensed marriage counselor. If you both go through the process, remarrying your ex could work. If you don't, you would be courting another dose of heartache.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Nick" for more than a year. We have both been married before—Nick's a widower, and I am divorced. He says he cares for me, but doesn't feel passionate about me, nor does "love" describe how he feels about me.

We are intimate, are great friends and spend almost every day together. He treats me great, dates no one else and I can be myself around him. But am I cheating myself by accepting the status quo? Our intimate times aren't satisfying because of the lack of emotional ties, but I'm torn because I enjoy his company. I am confused. Any words of wisdom, Abby?

NOT QUITE FULFILLED

DEAR NOT QUITE FULFILLED: You and Nick are friends with benefits. Because you have no future with him beyond what you have now, and because intimacy with him is not satisfying because of his inability (or refusal) to emotionally commit—I'd have to say he's reaping more of the benefits. The status quo is a substitute for what you really want, and yes, you are cheating yourself.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been going through photo albums recently. Oh, the joy of seeing all those familiar faces again! However, when I turned the pictures over to verify people's last names and the dates they were taken, I was disappointed to find them blank.

The vacations depicted in the photos were wonderful, and I'm sure I thought we'd never forget the year. But the years go by.... So this is a reminder to take the time to label the back of photos with pertinent information. Believe me, it will be appreciated in later years.

SHUTTERBUG IN CANON CITY, COLO.

DEAR SHUTTERBUG: The situation you describe is one that countless people have experienced—and something folks often don't think about until it is too late. Thank you for the timely suggestion. It's one that I hope readers will make the time to follow.

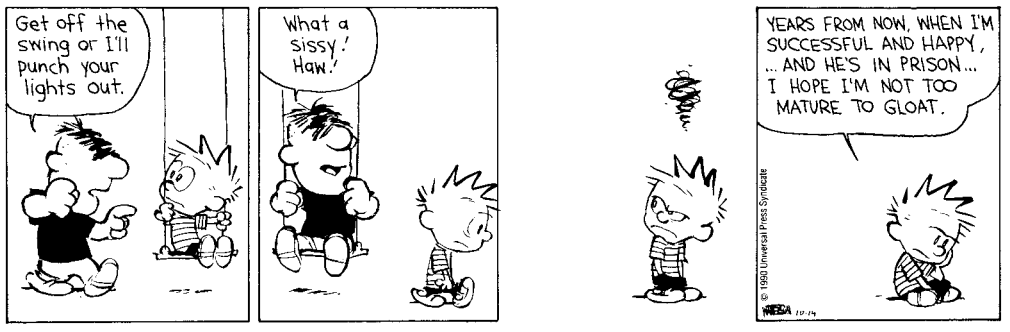
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


Get off the swing or I'll punch your lights out.
What a sissy! Haw!
YEARS FROM NOW, WHEN I'M SUCCESSFUL AND HAPPY, ... AND HE'S IN PRISON... I HOPE I'M NOT TOO MATURE TO GLOAT.
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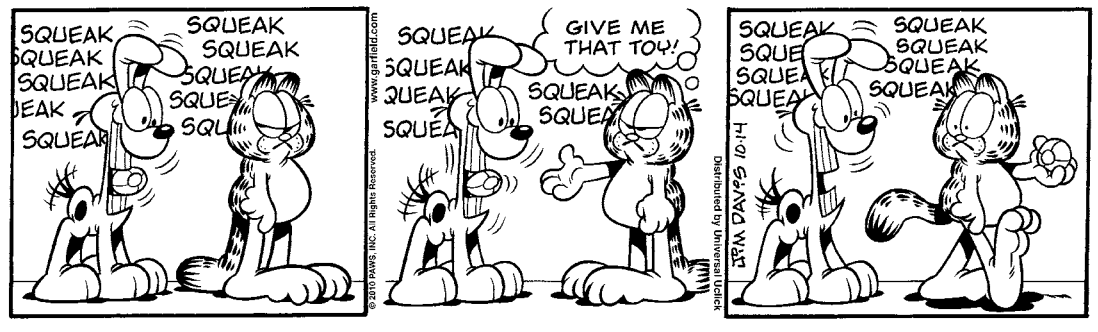
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

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I'M SORRY. I CAN'T. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I CAN HELP YOU WITH?
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10-14
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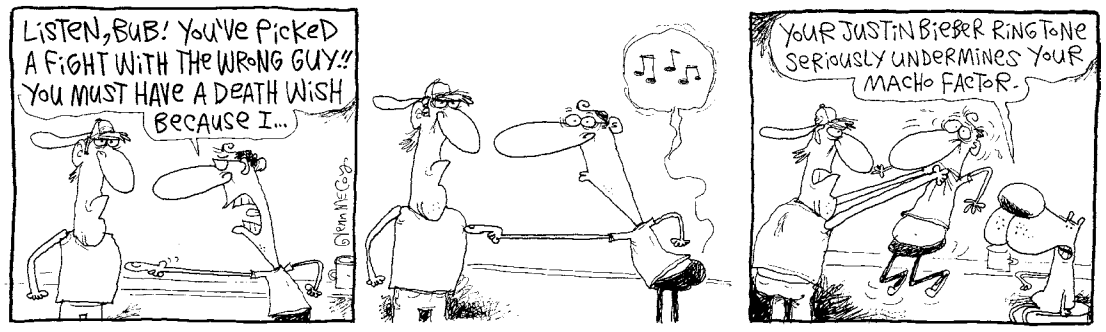
MAY I HAVE A JOB APPLICATION, PLEASE?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


LISTEN, BUB! YOU'VE PICKED A FIGHT WITH THE WRONG GUY!! YOU MUST HAVE A DEATH WISH BECAUSE I...
GLENN MCCOY
YOUR JUSTIN BIEBER RINGTONE SERIOUSLY UNDERMINES YOUR MACHO FACTOR.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

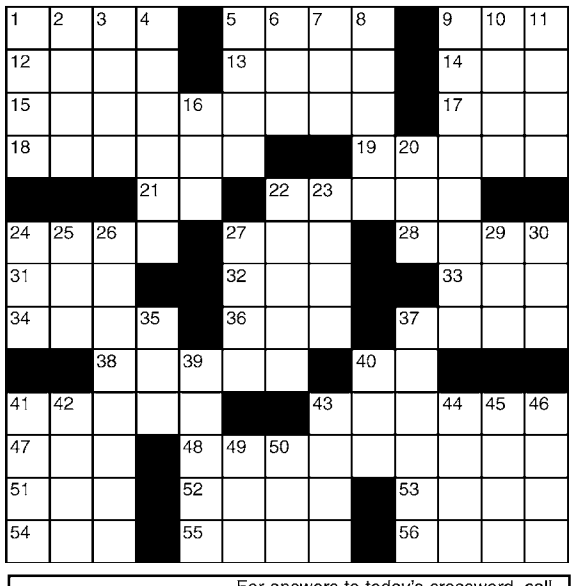
ACROSS
1 Storage structure
5 Alkali neutralizer
9 Cudgel
12 Relaxation
13 Musical ending
14 Past
15 "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?" set
17 Sister
18 Rug, so to speak
19 Hoosegow
21 Bunyan's Babe, e.g.
22 "Star Wars" weapon
24 Dermatologist's concern
27 Increase
28 Hurry
31 "Humbug!"
32 Time of your life?
33 Shell game item
34 "Skedaddle!"
36 In medias —
37 Unescorted
38 Irrigate
40 3.14
41 Stallone role
43 Deli offering
47 Geological period
48 "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" aids
51 Donkey
52 Maleficence
53 Brat's stocking stuffer
54 Bambi's aunt Ena, e.g.
55 Rod attachment
56 Initial stake

DOWN
1 Denomination
2 Head light?
3 Birthright barterer
4 Czar
5 Farm fraction
6 Bill's partner
7 Altar affirmative
8 Muffles
9 "Wheel of Fortune" chance
10 Chills and fever
11 Broadway prize
16 Driver's license datum
20 "— the ramparts ..."
22 Beer type
23 Firetruck tools
24 Couric's network
25 "Uh-huh"
26 "The Price Is Right" jackpot
27 Piece of merchandise
29 Vast expanse
30 Crone
35 Erstwhile acorn
37 Sand component
39 Tenth president
40 Chum
41 Peruse
42 Approximately
43 Hawk
44 Unsigned (Abbr.)
45 43-Across, e.g.
46 Capri or Wight
49 "— been had!"
50 "A pox upon thee!"

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	T	I	R	■	S	H	E	■	S	C	A	B
L	U	C	I	■	W	A	X	■	A	R	G	O
A	N	E	C	D	O	T	E	■	L	E	A	P
P	A	R	C	E	L	■	R	O	T	O	R	S
■	■	■	I	L	L	■	T	H	I	S	■	■
H	A	M	■	L	E	G	■	S	N	O	R	E
O	B	I	T	■	N	O	M	■	E	T	A	L
P	E	S	O	S	■	O	O	H	■	E	N	D
■	■	Q	U	I	T	■	D	I	S	■	■	■
C	O	U	R	S	E	■	E	G	O	I	S	M
A	V	O	N	■	M	A	S	H	N	O	T	E
P	E	T	E	■	P	I	T	■	I	T	E	M
P	R	E	Y	■	T	R	Y	■	C	A	P	O

Yesterday's answer 10-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Stacy Keibler, 31; Usher, 32; Natalie Maines, 36; Roger Moore, 83

Happy Birthday: You cannot move forward positively unless you do so with a clean slate. Get rid of the clutter in your life and your home. Be creative in the way you approach your personal situation and your living arrangements. Progress will be made if you are moderate and travel light. Your numbers are 3, 12, 16, 21, 27, 33, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Make your decisions based on sound advice and only after you have given plenty of thought to the possible outcome. Partnerships can go either way, depending on your diplomacy. Respond cordially. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Your current status can be enhanced through a position you apply for or the company you keep. Don't let your emotions get in the way of a business decision. Plan something special with your current partner. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): There is money to be made but you mustn't make purchases based on speculation. Take it one step at a time and you will acquire greater stability in both your personal and financial lives. Share your ideas or partner with someone who can contribute to your game plan. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You will attract negative and positive people. Filter through what's being offered and asked for and consider who can come through for you. Emotional matters will escalate and additional burdens may be placed on you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Put love on hold and sort out what you are doing professionally. Once you have your finances in order, you can approach the people you care about regarding your plans. Having a concrete idea to work with will make the difference. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Mistakes made can sometimes be a saving grace. Rely on past experience to get you through any confusion or uncertainty regarding a friend or dependent. You can gain ground if you look at the positives in your life instead of the negatives. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let criticism stop you from getting things done. Use what is said to better yourself so that your performance is improved and your understanding of what's expected of you isn't holding you back. The support you get will help you get back on track. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Love is on the rise and a change in attitude will help you express your feelings, enabling you to move forward personally. Make alterations to your surroundings that will improve your work and emotional well-being. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Someone may throw you a curve ball and you will have to act fast to avoid being questioned about something you aren't prepared to talk about. Honesty will be your only way out. An old relationship can disrupt your life if you let it. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Someone you meet will challenge you or lead you in a direction that will confuse you regarding your beliefs and lifestyle. You may be attracted to someone you meet through work but, before you make a move, consider the outcome. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let your feelings lead you in the wrong direction. Avoid anyone who makes you feel inadequate. You have a lot more going for you than you realize. Believe in yourself and so will others. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll tend to overreact and overdo but, in the end, that will be what attracts someone you are interested in to your side. There are exceptions that have to be considered which may mean reconnecting with someone with whom you had a falling out. Making amends will lead to a workable agreement. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated and loyal and work hard. You welcome change and thrive on originality. You are sensitive and compassionate.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3				4			
		7				9		4
	1			8			5	
5			4		1			
		9		6		7		
			2		7			6
	2			4			3	
4		3				6		
			7				8	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

2	3	4	6	5	9	7	1	8
7	8	6	4	1	3	9	2	5
9	5	1	8	2	7	6	4	3
3	6	9	2	4	8	5	7	1
8	7	5	1	9	6	4	3	2
1	4	2	3	7	5	8	9	6
4	2	8	7	6	1	3	5	9
6	9	7	5	3	2	1	8	4
5	1	3	9	8	4	2	6	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SHOPPING ADVENTURES **Solution: 7 letters**

C	K	E	S	G	O	O	D	S	A	V	I	N	G	S
R	L	B	D	S	E	R	U	T	C	I	P	C	E	R
A	A	O	A	A	E	T	P	A	E	H	C	I	E	O
F	W	O	T	S	R	M	N	C	F	O	D	T	R	O
T	E	T	S	H	E	T	A	U	L	L	R	T	O	D
S	D	H	A	R	I	M	R	L	O	A	Y	A	T	T
E	I	T	A	Q	E	N	E	S	B	C	S	N	S	U
I	S	R	U	R	I	C	G	N	S	O	S	S	I	O
T	H	E	A	T	T	Y	B	I	T	Y	O	I	I	V
I	S	O	U	I	T	S	O	P	R	M	M	K	D	C
D	S	R	B	L	A	I	Y	L	E	I	U	R	(S)	A
D	E	L	E	B	D	G	E	O	E	R	B	(E)	H	R
O	E	V	O	A	Y	W	A	I	T	G	(L)	N	O	D
S	O	S	R	O	E	L	B	A	U	(L)	A	V	P	S
N	K	N	U	J	T	S	E	N	I	Z	A	G	A	M

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Yesterday's Answer: Direction

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Find today's solution in this section

Lee leads Rangers to first ALCS

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Cliff Lee added another impressive line to his growing October resume, carrying the Texas Rangers into their first AL championship series.

Lee tossed another postseason gem and Texas won a playoff series for the first time, beating the Tampa Bay Rays 5-1 Tuesday night in a decisive Game 5 on the legs of some daring baserunning.

Lee struck out 11 in a six-hitter for his second win over Rays ace David Price in a series in which the road team won every game—a first in major league history.

"It was a lot of fun, I know that much," Lee said. "We had our back against the wall today and we came out and performed."

The Rangers will host the wild-card New York Yankees in the opener of the best-of-seven ALCS on Friday night. Texas' three previous playoff appearances ended with first-round losses to the Yankees, in 1996, 1998 and 1999.

The teams split eight games during the regular season, including Texas' three-game sweep at home in September.

"They're a great team and that's why they are where they are," Lee said. "They're going to be a good challenge, just like these guys."

Ian Kinsler hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning for Texas, which had been the only active major league franchise that hadn't won a playoff series.

Lee improved to 6-0 with a 1.44 ERA and three complete games in seven career postseason starts, striking out 54 and walking six in 56 1-3 innings.

The left-hander, acquired from Seattle in July, threw 90 of his 120 pitches for strikes and walked none. He retired his final nine batters and prevented Tampa Bay from completing an improbable comeback after losing the first two games at home.

"He was the Cliff Lee that everybody is used to seeing and he got the job done tonight," said Rays outfielder Carl Crawford, who might have played his last game with Tampa Bay because he can become a free agent after the World Series.

When B.J. Upton popped out to shortstop for the final out, Lee didn't even watch the ball drop into Elvis Andrus' glove. He simply walked toward catcher Bengie Molina and the two hugged as Rangers players poured onto the field to mob Lee near the plate.

The Rays had the AL's best record this season, giving them home-field advantage in the playoffs. But they lost all three games at Tropicana Field, managing only two runs.

"David pitched fine. We made too many mistakes—spring training mistakes," rays manager Joe Maddon said. "I want to congratulate the Rangers. Spectacular achievement they put forth this season."

The Rangers said it's the first time the road team has won every game in a postseason series, according to research by the Elias Sports Bureau.

This also was the first time a division series went the full five games since the Los Angeles Angels beat the New York Yankees in 2005.

A pair of Rangers runners scored from second base on infield grounders—thanks to heads-up baserunning by Andrus and Vladimir Guerrero.

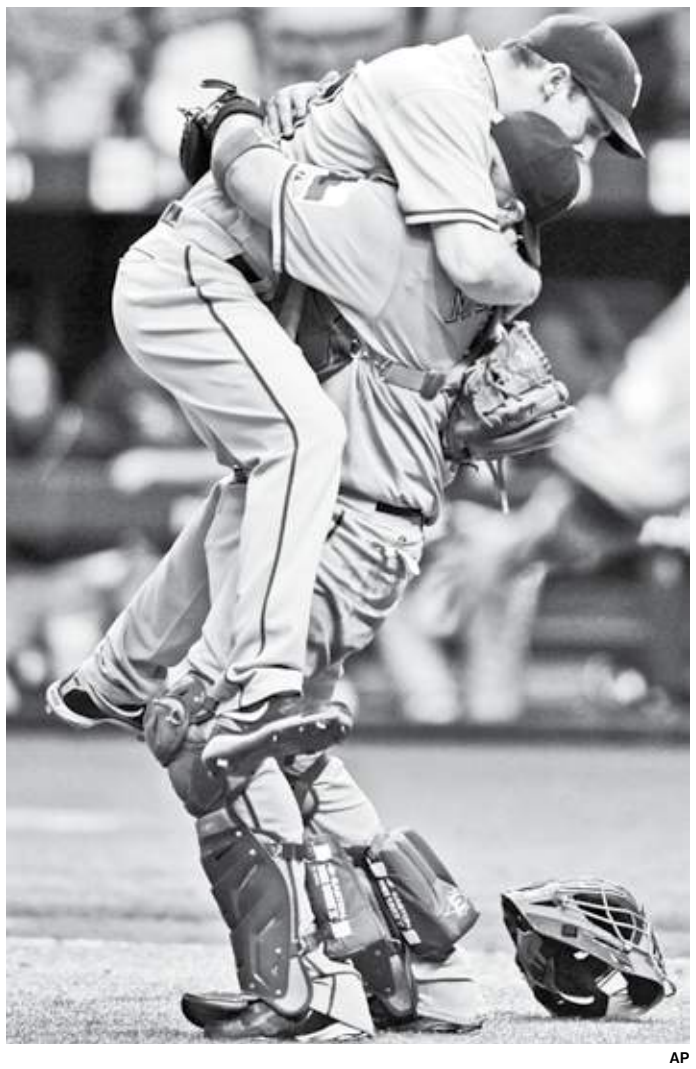
Kinsler batted .444 in the series with three homers and six RBIs. It was the first playoff series victory in the 50-season history of the Washington/Texas franchise.

"It's unbelievable. Something we're proud of because it's never happened in Texas before," slugger Josh Hamilton said. "Hopefully, we can take it to the next level."

Back in the clubhouse, the first round of celebrating was with ginger ale so that Hamilton, who has battled alcohol and drug addiction, could take part. When he left the room, the Rangers brought out champagne.

Lee, the 2008 AL Cy Young Award winner, won the series opener 5-1, allowing five hits and striking out 10 over seven innings. He fanned Rays slugger Carlos Pena six of the seven times he faced him in the series, and finished with an AL division series record 21 Ks in two games.

Texas pitchers struck out 55 in the five games, a record for a division series in either league.



AP

Texas Rangers catcher Bengie Molina, right, hugs pitcher Cliff Lee after the Rangers defeated the Tampa Bay Rays 5-1 during Game 5 of baseball's American League Division Series, Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

After losing the first two games at Tropicana Field, the Rays rallied to win Games 3 and 4 in Texas to give themselves a chance to join the 1985 Royals, 1986 Mets, 1996 Yankees and 2001 Yankees as the only teams to lose the first two games of a postseason series at home and come back to win the series.

Those 2001 Yankees were the only ones to rally in a best-of-five playoff, bouncing back against Oakland in 2001, when Rangers manager Ron Washington was the Athletics' third base coach.

For the first time since Tampa Bay's final four home games of the 2008 postseason, the tarps from the upper deck at Tropicana Field were removed, boosting capacity in the domed stadium by about 5,000 seats - some with obstructed views.

But a sellout crowd of 41,845 was not enough to keep the Rays' bats from going silent again.

Not with Lee on the mound.

Jason Bartlett had three hits off Lee, but the Rays went 1 for 7 with runners in scoring position, with that lone hit being Ben Zobrist's RBI single that tied it 1-all in the third.

Price, a 19-game winner in his first full season in the majors, allowed three runs and eight hits in six innings. The Rangers hurt him with two long home runs in Game 1, but did much of their damage this time on ground balls that forced him to cover first base.

Lee went 4-0 with a 1.56 ERA in five postseason starts for Philadelphia in 2009. He began this season with the Mariners and was acquired by Texas in the hope that he again would make a difference in the playoffs.

The Rangers gave Lee an early 1-0 lead, catching the Rays napping after Andrus led off the game with a single and stole second base. Price coaxed Hamilton into hitting a grounder to first base, and Andrus—running on the pitch—scored from second base when Pena flipped the ball to Price covering the bag and the pitcher didn't turn to check on Andrus.

Texas remained aggressive on the bases. The slow-footed Molina stole second on a full-count pitch in the third, his first steal since Sept. 9, 2006, with Toronto.

In the fourth, Nelson Cruz doubled off the wall in the deepest part of the ballpark, narrowly missing his fourth homer of the series. He put the Rangers ahead 2-1 when he brazenly stole third—with two outs—and continued home on a throwing error by catcher Kelly Shoppach.

An alert play by Guerrero gave the Rangers a 3-1 lead in the sixth.

With runners at first and second and one out, Kinsler hit a grounder to Pena. The first baseman fielded the ball and threw to second for a force out, but the relay throw to Price covering first was not in time for an inning-ending double play.

Guerrero took off for home, surprising Price, who looked at the umpire for a call before throwing a bit wide toward the plate. Guerrero slid across headfirst to avoid the tag by Shoppach.

Braves begin life without Bobby Cox as manager

ATLANTA (AP)—Bobby Cox strolled into the Atlanta Braves clubhouse around lunchtime Tuesday with that familiar waddle, only this time he was wearing his new uniform: A blue golf shirt and slacks.

The duds of retirement.

"Are y'all still here?" he jokingly yelled toward the handful of players who had returned to clean out their lockers, not even 24 hours removed from a season-ending loss in the NL division series.

On the first day of the rest of his life, Cox still had plenty of loose ends to tie up. First up was a meeting with general manager Frank Wren, probably to start graphing out his new consulting role with the organization. At some point, he'll have to pack up his office to make room for the next guy.

As strange as it seems, someone besides ol' No. 6 will be occupying that spot next season—and all signs pointed to former Florida manager Fredi Gonzalez.

"It's still hard to believe he's not going to be the manager come spring training," Chipper Jones said of Cox.

Wren made it clear he's already got a timeframe in mind to name Cox's successor. Gonzalez has seemed the most obvious choice since he was fired in June after 3 1/2 years as the Marlins manager, having posted a respectable record of 276-279 with one of baseball's lower-payroll teams but apparently running afoul of owner Jeffrey Loria for benching star shortstop Hanley Ramirez for a lack of hustle.

Gonzalez was a minor league manager in the Braves organization and did an apprenticeship as Cox's third-base coach from 2003-06. He still lives in suburban Atlanta, remained tight with Cox and frequently turned up at Turner Field after being dumped by the Marlins.

The Braves are likely to act quickly—Wren, after all, has known for more than a year that this would be Cox's final season.

Several media outlets reported that Atlanta will announce Gonzalez as its choice Thursday, one day after Cox holds a farewell news conference. The Braves had no comment on the reports, but Gonzalez would be a popular choice in the clubhouse and ensure a fairly smooth transition from a guy who's been managing the team since 1990.

Major League Baseball discourages major announcements from being made during the postseason, unless they are scheduled between rounds. The last division series game was being played Tuesday night and the AL championship series doesn't begin until Friday.

Braves pitcher Jair Jurrjens said he hopes the next manager is in the same mold as Cox, who didn't ask much of his players beyond working hard and showing up on time. If they followed those two simple rules (and abided by a couple of other minor pet peeves: No loud music or using cell phones in the clubhouse), they knew Cox had their back.

"When you come in here now, you know what kind of rules you have," Jurrjens said. "You hope it's not going to be different, just the same type of guy, someone who lets us do our thing and have fun. I don't want a sergeant to come in here with a bunch of rules."

Cox's successor will inherit a team that has one of baseball's best pitching staffs.

The rotation is in good hands with 17-game winner Tim Hudson, Derek Lowe, Tommy Hanson and Jurrjens. Even though closer Billy Wagner is retiring along with Cox, a trio of promising rookies emerged this season: Jonny Venters (1.95 ERA, 93 strikeouts in 83 innings), Craig Kimbrel (0.44 ERA, 40 Ks in 20 2-3 innings) and Mike Dunn (1.89 ERA). Throw in groundball specialist Peter Moylan and the bullpen looks in good hands.

"It's been the strength of our club," Wren said. "Pitching is the hardest thing to get, and we have it."

Other than hiring a new manager, the top priority for the offseason is clear: The Braves desperately need a power-hitting outfielder—preferably right-handed—to bolster a lineup that was shaky at best and had no chance after season-ending injuries to Jones and All-Star infielder Martin Prado.

Atlanta batted .175 and scored only nine runs in its four-game loss to San Francisco in the playoffs.

Jones, who had considered retiring, changed his mind after going down with a knee injury. He hopes to be at close to full strength by the start of spring training and would presumably reclaim third base. That would send Prado back to second and free up Omar Infante, perhaps the team's biggest surprise, to go wherever he's needed.

Infante wound up third in the NL in hitting (.321) and can play six positions. He even threw out the possibility of moving to center field, a weak spot for the Braves ever since they parted ways with Andruw Jones.

Freddie Freeman is set to take over at first base after getting a brief taste of the majors this season. The Braves hope he can have the impact of this year's rookie star, Jason Heyward, who earned the starting job in right field at age 20 and showed he was worthy of it (.277, 18 HRs, 72 RBIs).

Assuming the Braves pick up a club option on shortstop Alex Gonzalez, the lineup could look a whole lot better in 2011 with one more big bopper in the middle of it.

As for Cox, he will remain a part of the organization in a consulting role that is largely his to carve out. For instance, when the team's top officials meet in Florida next week to start laying out their plans and priorities for next season, Cox is welcome to come along.

"Quite frankly, we want him to be as involved as he wants to be," Wren said.

Just no spikes when he's hanging out in the executive suite.

"That wouldn't be good for the hardwood floors," Wren quipped.

The unique bond between Cox and his players was there even on the first day of retirement.

Brooks Conrad, whose three errors in Game 3 helped shorten Cox's final season, ran into his now ex-manager in a hallway. They hugged and Conrad asked if Cox planned to be at Turner Field on Wednesday. Cox said he would be.

"Would you mind signing a few things for me?" Conrad asked. "I'll sign anything you want," Cox said with a smile.

Heat need a rally to beat CSKA Moscow

MIAMI (AP)—CSKA Moscow provided one scare, then LeBron James gave Miami another.

The Heat survived both.

James scored 22 points in 26 minutes before leaving with leg cramps in the third quarter, Chris Bosh added 17 points and eight rebounds, and the Heat overcame an early 10-point deficit to beat the Euroleague powerhouse 96-85 in an exhibition on Tuesday night.

"I'm fine," said James, who will travel with the Heat to New Orleans but is not expected to play Wednesday—which the two-time reigning MVP revealed postgame was the Heat plan even before the cramping issue. "I can be ready to play the next game if I needed to play."

Former Duke star Trajan Langdon scored 20 for CSKA Moscow, which got 17 from Jamont Gordon and 15 from Ramunas Siskauskas.

It took a 23-4 run in the third quarter—with James and Bosh combining for 19 of those points—for Miami to create any sort of comfort zone over their Russian guests, who will also face Oklahoma City and Cleveland on their NBA preseason tour before returning to Moscow early next week.

"Second half, we just concentrated on doing our jobs, doing what we do, doing it with effort and doing it right, doing it how we've been trying to do it since training camp," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "And our focus and commitment was better."

This one wasn't decided until the final minutes.

Langdon's jumper with 4:15 remaining cut Miami's lead to five, but the Heat answered with four quick points. Kenny Hasbrouck—fighting for a roster spot—found Udonis Haslem for a layup on the next Miami possession, then added a driving layup in transition for a 90-81 lead.

AP

Miami Heat guard Mario Chalmers (15) drives on CSKA Moscow's Matjaz Smodis during the first half of a preseason NBA basketball game in Miami on Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010.

Hasbrouck finished with 12 points and four assists for Miami, as his long shot bid to make the team might have received a boost.

"Who knows?" Spoelstra said. "And that's what I've told him. Just play. Play your game. ... If you play poorly, nothing's going to happen, so you only control what you can control, and he's an attacking player."

Matjaz Smodis scored 11 for CSKA Moscow.

Miami played again without Dwyane Wade, who is continuing to recover from a strained right hamstring suffered in the preseason opener on Oct. 5. Mike Miller started in his place again for the Heat, who were also without Carlos Arroyo and Jamaal Magloire, neither of whom is expected to be back when Miami visits New Orleans on Wednesday.

James reached for his right hamstring with 3:51 left in the third quarter, walking with a bit of a limp off the floor and then quickly through the tunnel toward the Miami locker room. He was followed moments later by Wade, who emerged moments later smiling—a good sign.

Alas, there was some big-time angst until the diagnosis came.

"It's not a great sight for a coach," Spoelstra said. "Come on."

CSKA Moscow got quite a welcome: An opera singer performed the Russian national anthem, and a group of fans waved the nation's flag directly across from the visiting bench. The Heat even exchanged gifts with their Euroleague foes just before tip-off.

They felt comfortable, for certain.

Bosh took a lob pass from James and scored 15 seconds into the game. The lead—Miami's only edge of the half—didn't last, and the visitors weren't the least bit intimidated, either.

By the midway point of the opening quarter, it was 13-6. When Siskauskas hit a jumper with 4:24 left, CSKA Moscow stretched its edge to 17-7. And after James hit a 3-pointer to tie the game at 34 with 4:16 remaining until halftime, the Russian club peeled off the next seven points, all from the foul line, five of them coming from Langdon.

At halftime, the lead was 44-39. This wasn't against the Heat third-stringers and guys playing for jobs, either. James played 18 minutes in the opening half - only Siskauskas logged more, and that was by a mere 56 seconds.

"We've played against NBA teams before," Langdon said. "We know that this is a very good Heat team. We know that there is a lot of new players here. We've been in camp a little bit longer than them so I think our rhythm and playing together, we know what we're doing a little bit more than they do at this time in terms of knowing each other."

Eventually, James decided enough was enough.

His acrobatic layup with 8:38 left in the third, while getting fouled, put Miami ahead 50-49. On the ensuing CSKA possession, James got a steal on the right wing, then found Miller for a left-handed layup and a three-point lead that had the Russian club quickly calling for a timeout.

James hit a free throw with 3:53 left, giving Miami a 63-53 lead two seconds before he departed. Miami led the rest of the way.

"The fact that we came out in the third quarter and showed a sense of urgency that we needed, it was great," James said. "It's good basketball."

Goodell says he will meet Favre if necessary

CHICAGO (AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said Tuesday there was no timetable for wrapping up an investigation of an Internet report that Vikings quarterback Brett Favre sent racy text messages and lewd photos to a former New York Jets game hostess.

"We're just looking for facts now," Goodell said at the NFL owners meeting. "I am going to deal with it as we get the facts."

He said he had no plans to meet with Favre, "but if it is something that would help us get to a conclusion and it is warranted, I will do so."

The investigation, announced last week, centers on a report by the sports website Deadspin that in 2008 Favre, then with the Jets, sent the photos and messages to Jenn Sterger.

Sterger's manager, Phil Reese, declined to say if his client has talked with the NFL.

"This is something that allegedly happened two years ago," Reese said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "We don't want a quick resolution, but the proper resolution."

Favre could be fined or suspended under the NFL's personal conduct policy.

"One of the reasons we instituted the personal conduct policy ... to make everyone understand their responsibilities," Goodell said. "We're not going down a line of speculation and hypothetical situations."

AP

Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre warms up before an NFL football game between the Vikings and the New York Jets on Monday, Oct. 11, 2010, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Favre has not responded to questions about the Deadspin report.

Deadspin reported the voicemails include a man asking to meet with Sterger, who now is a TV personality for the Versus network. The website posted a video that contained those messages and several below-the-waist photos—said to be of Favre—that were allegedly sent to Sterger's cell phone.

Deadspin also reported that Favre pursued two female massage therapists who worked part time for the Jets. The website didn't identify the women, however the Jets have said they gave contact information about them to the league.

Two high-profile quarterbacks recently were penalized for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy. Former Falcon Michael Vick returned to the league in 2009 with Philadelphia after missing two seasons for his role in a dogfighting ring. He served an 18-month sentence in prison.

Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was suspended for six games in April after he was accused of, but not charged with, sexually assaulting a 20-year-old woman at a Georgia college bar. Goodell shortened that ban to four games just before the season, and Roethlisberger will return to the lineup on Sunday against Cleveland.

TO *acknowledges breaking* NFL *tweet rule*

CINCINNATI (AP)—Terrell Owens acknowledged on Tuesday night that he violated the NFL's rules against tweeting shortly before games by sending one out an hour before a loss to Tampa Bay.

His defense? It was for a good cause.

The Bengals receiver said on the first episode of a new cable television show Tuesday night that he won't object if the NFL fines him for breaking the rules. Coaches and players are prohibited from using social networks 90 minutes before a game, during a game and shortly afterward.

The policy went into effect before last season. The only one to violate it until Sunday had been teammate Chad Ochocinco, who was fined $25,000 for tweeting shortly before and during a preseason game in August.

Owens' tweet was one of the subjects on the first episode of "The T.Ocho Show" on the Versus cable network.

"If I get fined for it, then that's cool," Owens said.

An NFL spokesman said the league was looking into it but had no announcement on Tuesday.

An hour before a 24-21 loss to Tampa Bay, the receiver sent a tweet from Paul Brown Stadium that he said was part of his work with a charity that helps children in Kenya.

"A lucky fan wearing my jersey 2day will get a signed football by Me & Ocho Cinco! My asst will pick U out!! Good luck!" he tweeted.

Owens said he intended to post the tweet earlier in the day, but he left his home late and forgot to take his cell phone with him. He said he had an assistant bring his cell phone to Paul Brown Stadium.

"I got the tweet out a little late," he said.

The Bengals were on the field warming up when the tweet was posted.

Twitter and other social networking sites have become popular with NFL players. Bengals coach Marvin Lewis also has a policy against players using social network sites while they're at the stadium.

Kevin Frazier, the moderator of the receivers' new show, introduced the tweet segment by saying, "That was wrong and I'm not making excuses for you," then gave Owens a chance to explain. Owens indicated he expects a fine from the league.

"It's not going to be the first thing that goes unappreciated for some of the noble things and charitable things that I do," Owens said

Lopsided wins in QQ Cup caging

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2010 QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup held three make-up games last Sunday at the Garapan Basketball Court and all resulted to blowouts.

In the first game, Atalig Associates capitalized on the absence of Buraot star player Dave Sablan to cruise to an 85-63 victory.

In the second match, the Ferrera Builders remained perfect in six games after making light work of the Pacific Grocers (2-4), 106-80, while IT&E's (3-3) dominated the winless Westerners in the last tiff, 100-77.

In the curtain-raiser, Atalig jumped ahead early, 19-12, with Bon Tamoyo and Jomar Tengco setting the pace and scoring seven and six points, respectively.

Atalig stretched the lead to double digits at the half, 45-35, thanks in part to Mel Capalad's nine points. Atalig pressed on to extend the lead to 14, 63-49, heading into the last quarter.

Atalig widened the gap in the third after playing tough defense against Buraot and getting a lift from second stringer Ben Lisua, who came off the bench to chip in five points. Up by 14, Atalig smelled blood and mercilessly went for the kill in the fourth.

WALTER SUTHERLAND
Atalig Associates' Mel Capalad, left, scored 10 points in the team's 85-63 victory over Buraot during a make-up game in the 2010 QQ Car Rental Basketball at the Garapan Basketball Court last Sunday.

Tamayo led Atalig with 18 points, while Nick Swaim paced Buraot with 15.

In the second game, the Ferrera Builders brushed off a depleted Pacific Grocers, which played with only six players.

The Builders took the lead right out of the gate, 31-24. Bernardo led the Builders with 10 points in the opening canto and drew 15 from James Abuy and Noel David.

The Grocers remained afloat in the second quarter, 45-51, behind the combined 16 points of Eugene Mangali and Joel Javier. However, Ferrera came out strong in the third and began to pull away, 77-63.

It was all Builders in the final period, as Joseph Galulu came off the bench at the very end and scored 12 of the last 14 points of the game. Abuy and Bernardo led Ferrera with 24 and 21 points, respectively. Pacific Grocers' Moises, Javier, and Mangali tallied 29, 28, and 25 markers in a losing effort.

In the final game, IT&E built an 11-point lead, 39-28, over the Westerners at the half after a tight opening quarter, 17-15. In the first half, Errol Peredo led IT&E with 16 points and teammates Ivan Devero and Robert Naraja tallied 12 points each.

After the break, IT&E completed its breakaway, 72-50, thanks in part to 11 more markers from Peredo .

The Westerners ran out of options for a major comeback and this game was virtually over by the start of the final period. Peredo finished with 33 points, while Devero and Najara delivered 22 and 24, respectively. The Westerners Gino Libuw logged 21 points, while Kelvin Fitial nailed 18 in the loss.

First Game

Atalig Associates 85 – Tamayo 18, Capalad 10, Mina 10, Tengco 10, Camacho 8, Santos 8, Lisua 5, Babauta 3, Pua 2, C. Sablan 2.

Buraot 63 – Swaim 15, Gapor 12, Fernando 11, Bautista 9, Capuli 8, Hidalgo 4, J. Reyes 4, Manolo 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-12, 45-35, 63-49, 85-63.

Second Game

Ferrera Builders 106 – Abuy 24, Bernardo 21, Rasa 15, Galulu 12, Yabut 12, David 8, Miranda 6, Mortos 4, Abedes 2, Serrano 2.

Pacific Grocers 80 – Mangali 25, Moises 19, Javier 18, Lansang 10, Saplan 4, Tuwon 4.

Scoring by quarters: 31-24, 51-45, 77-63, 106-80.

Third Game

IT&E 100 – Peredo 33, Naraja 24, I Devero 22, Montano 11, Park 8, Lazona 2.

Westerners 77 – Libuw 21, K Fitial 18, BJ Tagabuel 10, F Fitial 8, Olaitiman 6, J Tagabuel 5, Esliuguan 4, R Fitial 3, Yarofilar 3.

Scoring by quarters: 17-15, 39-28, 72-50, 100-77.

MAFEA-KONFLIKT

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and even fans joined the intense action, saying angry words either to the referees or the opposing players.

The boiling point came at the 6:36 mark of the fourth quarter when Cavite forward Tim Wesley and MAFEA guard Jomary Tumaquip had an altercation. The clash began after MAFEA made a basket and led at 62-61, and Wesley and Tumaquip pushed each other as they jockeyed for position in the rebound play.

The two players exchanged heated words while Wesley was preparing for an inbound play from the baseline. Referees stepped in before the squabble turned ugly. Both players received technical fouls and were forced to sit on the bench for three minutes.

When the game resumed, it seemed Cavite was headed for a steady finish when it led by four, 68-64, after two baskets from Francis Rebuyon and three free throws from John Artates.

However, MAFEA answered with a 13-1 windup in the last 5:13 of the match to steal the game.

Four straight points from Bernard Aquino put MAFEA back in the lead, 70-68 and with 3:16 left, Tumaquip was allowed to return to the game, replacing Aquino.

The crucial substitution worked wonders for MAFEA, as Tumaquip played well defensively, picking Cavite's pocket several times. Wesley, who scored four straight points before going back to their bench, also reported back to the game in the last three minutes, but went cold and committed a costly error in the homestretch.

MAFEA was ahead by only three, 72-69, when Wesley lost the ball, leading to an Elmer Esdrelon fastbreak layup and Konflikt's 74-69 adavantage.

A hurried shot from J.R. Barrios and a fumble from Rebuyon returned possession to MAFEA, which then failed to seal the game when it went 1-for-5 from the foul line. Cavite had another chance to move closer, but Barrios' bounce pass to a cutting John Llagas was intercepted by Tumaquip and Brendon Talania converted a layup to peg the final score.

Talania top-scored for MAFEA with 17 points, while James Villacrusis paced Cavite with 20 markers.

MAFEA will meet SIP-Mobil tonight with the winner advancing to the finals. The loser will play the winner of the Cavite-MDX playoff game for the second finals berth.

Cavite posted the biggest lead in the game in the second period 33-22, before Talania and Darwin Barbo led MAFEA's recovery and cut the deficit to one at the break, 39-40.

MAFEA then grabbed the upper hand in the third period, 58-53, with its balance offense. The early minutes of the fourth quarter was a nip-and-tuck game before Cavite lost its composure after the Wesley-Tumaquip tussle.

MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt 77 – Talania 15, Esdrelon 14, D. Barbo 14, M. Capalad 12, Aquino 8, Tumaquip 6, Berline 4, Camacho 2, W. Capalad 2.

Cavite 69 – Villacrusis 20, Rebuyon 17, Barrios 10, Wesley 8, Artates 6, Montano 5, Umali 2, Hernandez 1.

Scoring by quarters: 18-23, 39-40, 58-53, 77-69.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

Joe Pyrzski, Jesse Santos, Jason Tarkong, and Scott Hayden.

Last year, with Saipan as the host island and 15 boats competing, SOCC finished first in the 500m sprint and runner-up both in the 1500m sprint and 12-mile long distance events. The host team collected 46 points that were good enough to give SOCC the overall championship honors over Haggan (42) and Animum Tasi Metgot (41), both of Guam.

Female paddlers are in, too

Meanwhile, an independent seven-woman team from Marianas Pacific Paddlers has also been training under coach Anne Jordan since the summer and is looking forward for its maiden trip to the Micro Cup.

Jordan has been involved with canoeing on island for over 10 years and has attended six Micro Cup events. She also has coached numerous school teams and exhibited youth paddling clinics in the past.

"We are a new group, but I think the girls have developed good chemistry. The team has been training five times a week for the past two months and has a good mix of young and experienced paddlers, so we're hoping to make a run for a medal," Jordan said.

Since Marianas Pacific Paddlers is a new team, the Micro Cup will be its first competition as a unit. Leading the team is captain and co-coach, Juliette Sword. Her crewmates include Jordan, Eileen Fleming, Andrea and Valerie Hofschneider, Vaaia Erica Leuta and Leilani Nielson.

Last year, Guam's Poksai won the overall championship in the women's division with its 50 points besting Metgot's 45 and Animum Tasi Fotten's 39.

The Micronesian Cup was founded in 1999 by a Guam surf shop owner named Linda Yeomans and is considered today as the largest outrigger event in Micronesia. Every year paddlers from all over the Western Pacific such Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Guam, and Palau meet up and compete for the Micro Cup bragging rights.

GUAM

From Page 28

Urquizu lost his first encounter with Palaxi in 2007 at Preba Hao 10 in Guam by a third round TKO. Urquizu now vows revenge against Sablan, however the latter would want to prove that one of the biggest wins in his mixed martial arts career was not a fluke.

Just before the main event, J.J. Ambrose (7-2) from the American Kickboxing Academy will challenge PureBred Japan's Masakazu Taguchi (3-5) in a 155-lb super-fight. Ambrose appeared on Season 12 of The Ultimate Fighter, but was eliminated in the first round. Taguchi has been tested against some of Japan's best competitions. Both fighters are known for their stand up and Jiu Jitsu skills.

Nine professional MMA bouts will take place at the octagon cage before the Ambrose-Taguchi duel, starting with a 140-lb Saipan versus Saipan bout between Trench Tech's Mark "The Dark" Nuique and Team Haga's CJ "Face" Takai (2-3). This is the 19-year-old Nuique's first pro bout after winning a string of five amateur fights.

In another 140-lb brawl, Marianas Elite's Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar (3-9) will test Tinian's undefeated Craig "Earthquake" Borja (3-0) of team Zeng Zung. Rangamar is very experienced at this level, but Borja is on a roll and all three of his wins were off dominating fashion.

Then at 185lb, Team Predator Combat's Martin "Ning" Cepeda (1-1) will face the USA's Jason Kirkland. Kirkland trains with Ambrose in the U.S. and this fight will be his MMA debut.

At 195lb, TPC's undefeated Ed "Styx" Castro (2-0) will go toe to toe with Trench Tech's Slade "The Rage" Adelbai. Castro is looking to avenge his Uncle Mike "Crazy C" Castro, who lost to Adelbai by TKO in Rites of Passage III, back in 2006.

Then at 180lb, Trench Tech gem, Darrel "The Derailer" Salas (5-0) will take on Guam's Wyenu "One Time" Bamba (4-6). Bamba's teammate, Thomas Cruz, will go up against Trench Tech's Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse (6-2) in a 165-lb middleweight bout.

Next comes a 255-lb heavyweight brawl between GTT/UX's Peter "Big Mac" Miyasaki and the debuting Moses Buikis of Saipan.

Three amateur bouts will start off the night with female fighter Niana "Cup Cake" Dela Cruz still looking for an opponent for a 135-lb special feature ladies bout. Next up is a double-debut fight between Tinian's Joe Ray "Manglo" Manglona of Zeng Zung and Trench Tech and independent Saipan fighter John "The Process" Moses at 145lb.

Then TPC's "Tabi" Jay Muna will take on Jacob Ilo in a 130lb K-1 kickboxing match. Muna is a veteran MMA guy, but is taking a crack at kickboxing for the first time.

Tickets for Trench Wars 13 are now available for $25 each. The event will start at 8pm, but gates will be opened at 7pm. Tickets can be bought at Trench Tech, the 670 Rocksteady Shop, Hannam Markets, and Borderline Skate Shop.

For more information, contact Cuki Alvarez at 483-4MMA.

2010 UFO Basketball League Regular Season

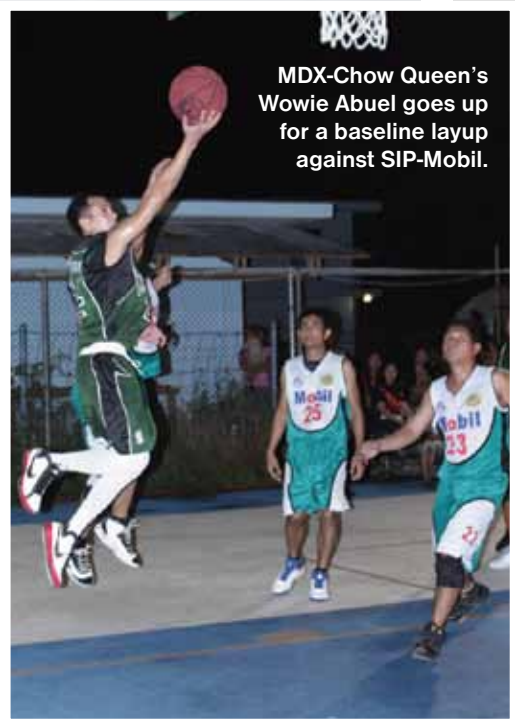
Cavite's J.R. Barrios makes a layup against MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt's Bernard Aquino, right, and Mel Capalad during their regular season game in the 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League.

Above left, MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt's Elmer Esdrelon is pressured by two Cavite defenders.

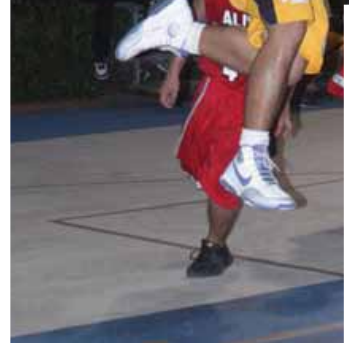
Above, Bayani-Soul Jazz's Alex Lauron beat his teammates and MAFEA players for the rebound.

Left, Bayani-Soul Jazz's Noel David goes up for a layup against MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt.

SIP-Mobil's Jun Estolas goes for an acrobatic shot against MDX-Chow Queen's Glenn Aquino.

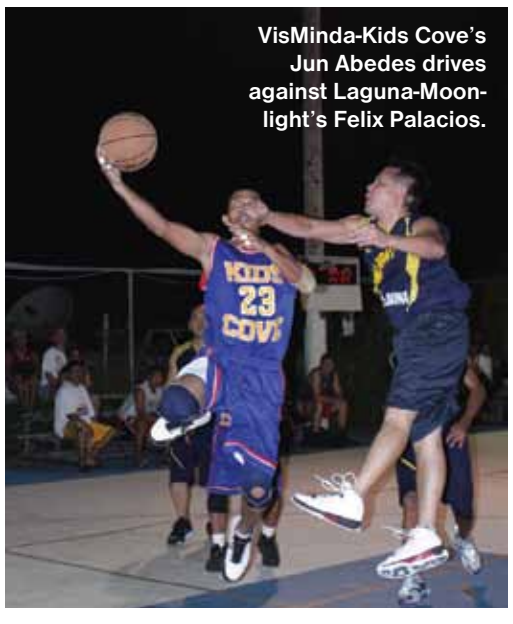


MDX-Chow Queen's Wowie Abuel goes up for a baseline layup against SIP-Mobil.

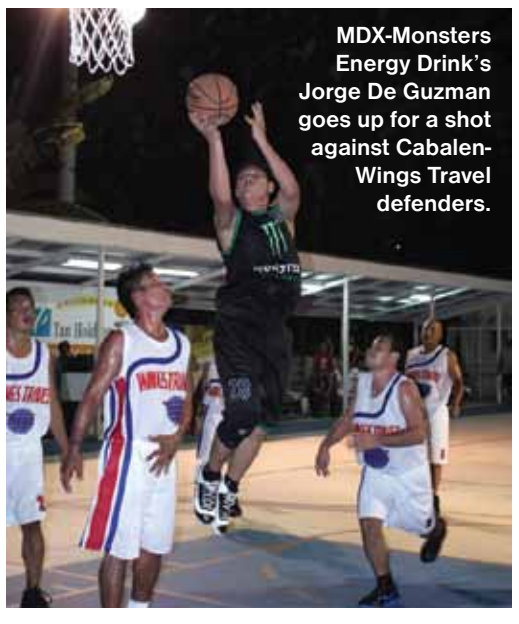


MDX-Monsters Energy Drink's Jun Tabora is fouled by Cabalen-Wings Travel's Dante Olivos.

Left, Samahang Ilonggo sa Saipan-Marianas Wireless' Rusty Doronilla makes a layup against NMBA-Island Apparel's Dexter Mendiola.



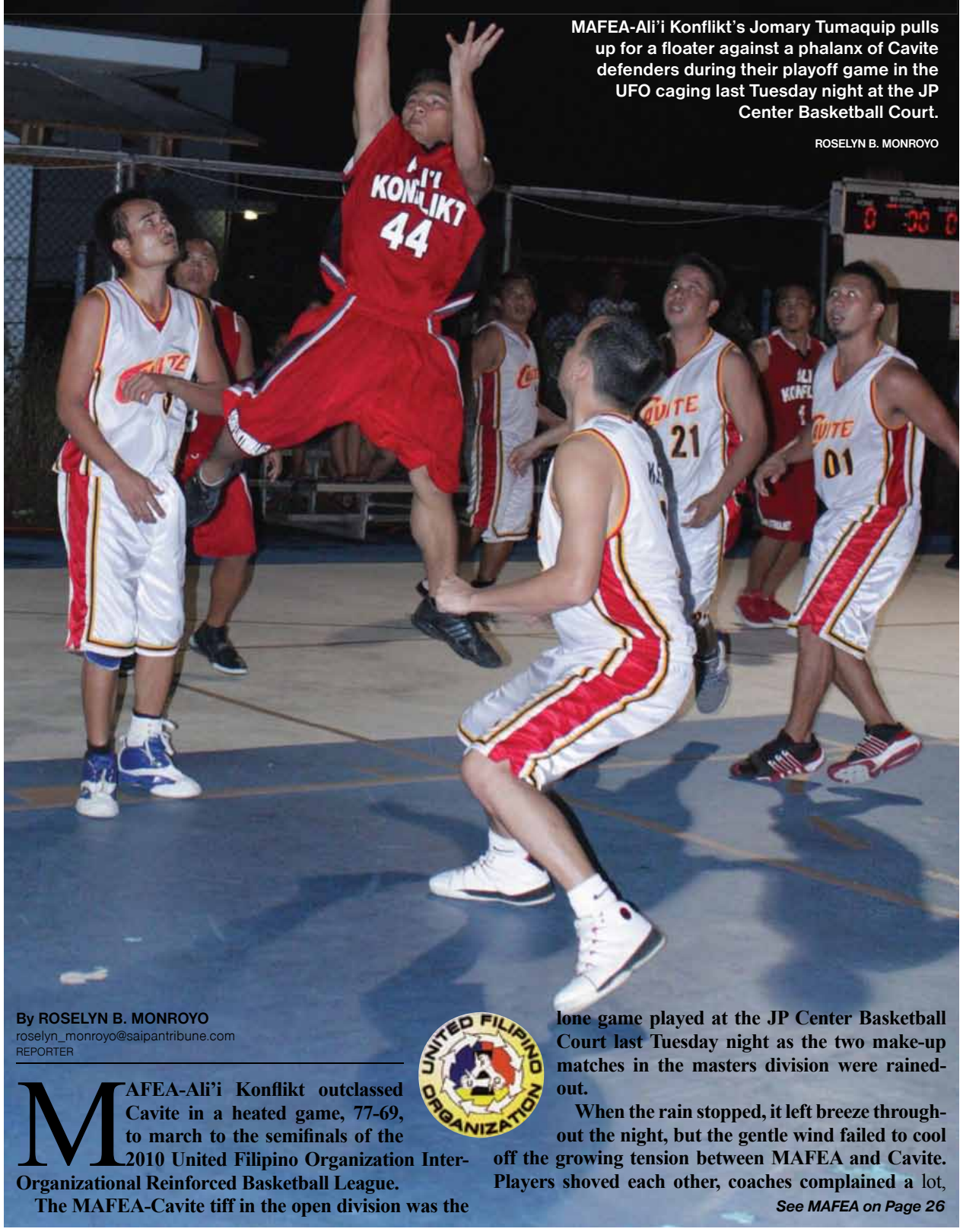
VisMinda-Kids Cove's Jun Abedes drives against Laguna-Moonlight's Felix Palacios.



MDX-Monsters Energy Drink's Jorge De Guzman goes up for a shot against Cabalen-Wings Travel defenders.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

MAFEA-Konflikt inches closer to UFO finals



MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt's Jomary Tumaquip pulls up for a floater against a phalanx of Cavite defenders during their playoff game in the UFO caging last Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt outclassed Cavite in a heated game, 77-69, to march to the semifinals of the 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League.

The MAFEA-Cavite tiff in the open division was the lone game played at the JP Center Basketball Court last Tuesday night as the two make-up matches in the masters division were rained-out.

When the rain stopped, it left breeze throughout the night, but the gentle wind failed to cool off the growing tension between MAFEA and Cavite. Players shoved each other, coaches complained a lot,

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Saipan paddlers training for Micro Cup title defense

WALTER SUTHERLAND

Members of the Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club pose for a photo after last Tuesday's practice at Kilili Beach Park.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club men's team is gearing for a title defense in the 12th Annual Micronesia Cup in Palau.

"We have a strong veteran team and have been putting in a lot of dedication and training for this one. I feel that the team is a real contender again this year and we are looking forward to that opportunity and we hope to have a lot of fun out there," SOCC team captain Richard Sikkel said.

The Micro Cup will be held on Oct. 23 and 24 at the Meyuns Seaplane Ramp.

Sikkel has an eight-man team, but only six paddlers compete at a time and the triple event holds multiple heats. The SOCC crew is made up of Gil Birnbrich, Jim Sirok, Justin Mariano,

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Guam vs Japan in Trench Warz 13

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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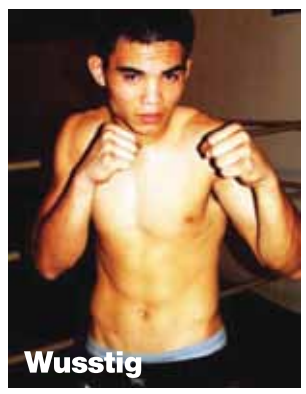
REPORTER

A Guam versus Japan bout will serve as one of the teasers in Trench Warz 13: Vengeance, as Rob "The Real Deal" Wusstig challenges Tomoya "Katana" Kato at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort on Oct. 29.

Kato



Wusstig

Wusstig, fighting out of Guahan Top Team /Underworld Xtreme will battle Kato of Team BONDs in a 150-lb lightweight super fight with the former slightly favored in one of the 12 supporting bouts of the night.

Record-wise, Kato may have the edge over the Guam fighter as he holds an 8-3 record against Wusstig's 2-4. However, Wusstig won his last two fights, while Kato dropped two bouts in a row.

After the Wusstig-Kato tussle and the 11 other undercard bouts, MMA fans will be treated to Trench Warz 13 finale main event between Ryan "The Dentist" Urquizu (14-4) of Guam's Fight To Win team and Trench Tech's Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan (16-5).

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White pleased with historic feat

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

FIBA International referee Gabriel White added another entry to his rich resume—an officiating duty in the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in Singapore.

"I felt privileged and honored to be selected by FIBA Sport Director, Lubomir Kotleba, as one of the 17 FIBA Referees in the world chosen to officiate at the very first Youth Olympic Games," said White, who missed the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, as he had to fly to Singapore for the youth competition from Aug. 14 to 26.

"Being a part of this historic event was a blessing because this was another great opportunity to represent the Northern Mariana Islands and build sport tourism relationships with so many people from all over the world who share the same passion for sports, and not just basketball," White added.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Gabriel White, right, poses with fellow FIBA referees during the 2010 Youth Olympics in Singapore in August.

White was the lone referee from Micronesian to officiate games in Singapore. He officiated 17 games and made the most of every match.

"Regular basketball games were not played during the competition. Instead, FIBA introduced FIBA 33, their pilot 3-on-3 competition for 20 male and 20 female junior national teams," White said.

"All of the games were very notable for me. I had no preferences. I was simply happy to be assigned games throughout the entire event and work with some of the best and youngest FIBA Referees in the world," he added.

Besides basketball, the 12-day competition featured 25 sports: aquatics, archery, athletics, badminton, boxing, canoe, cycling, equestrian, football, fencing, gymnastics, handball, judo, hockey, modern pentathlon, rowing, sailing, table tennis, shooting, taekwondo, tennis, triathlon, volleyball, weightlifting, and wrestling.

"I had fun and enjoyed everything. This was the spirit and intent of this inaugural event," White said.

Since getting his FIBA International badge in 2008, the CNMI referee has been selected to officiate games in Oceania, European and Asian tournaments.